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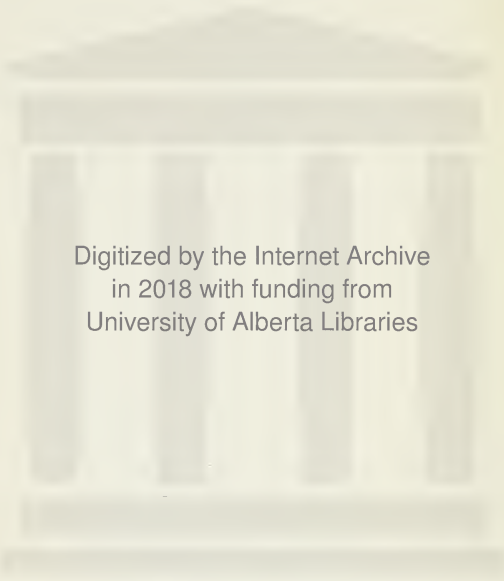
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Thirteenth Session of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany

Berlin, 9 and 10 June 1970

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by Comrade Albert Norden, Member of the Political Bureau
and Secretary of the Central Committee

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From the Report of the Political Bureau to the 13th session of the Central Committee of the SED

**by Comrade Albert Norden, Member of the Political Bureau and
Secretary of the Central Committee**

1970 is a year of extraordinary significance for our party, for the working class and for its allies. The decisions of the 12th Session of the Central Committee, with its clear-cut programme and with the significant speech of Comrade Walter Ulbricht on the "Basic Tasks of the Year 1970", determine the work of the party in this so important period of our social progress.

Powerful stimuli were given to our work by the manner in which we marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. The great celebration on 17 April in Berlin was the climax of a broad and far-reaching campaign during which our party and the entire population checked thoroughly on how well we had absorbed the ideas of that immortal architect of a new world. The great torch ignited by Lenin is still burning brightly and also illuminates the path of the German Marxist-Leninists. The citizens of our country, inspired by the world-shaking ideas of the brilliant leader of the international working class, are utilizing them wisely in their daily work aimed at making the GDR prosper.

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED)—a party of a new type, an organisation of irreconcilable struggle against capitalism and for Socialism, as Lenin understood and first created it in the form of the Bolshevik Party—our SED took up this most influential and invincible intellectual masterwork of progressive mankind more thoroughly than ever before in all sections of the party and thus became capable of fulfilling its historic mission of achieving new successes for the Socialist state on German soil.

The call of the International Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties to "Study the Works of Lenin" found a wide resonance in our country. More than 1.3 million members and

candidates of our party and 330,000 non-party working people are taking part in the permanent party schooling courses, becoming acquainted with the teachings of Lenin and their creative application by the SED. 650,000 members of the Free German Youth (FDJ) and other young people are studying the basic works of Lenin in the Circles of Young Socialists. A number of party organisations have transformed their studies of Lenin articles like "The Great Initiative" and "The Next Tasks of the Soviet Power" into real mass movements. In Dresden county alone, more than 7,900 Socialist teams with a membership of over 150,000 people are participating.

The study of Lenin's works has merged with the struggle to solve our economic tasks. A vivid example of this is the Socialist emulation campaign which was set into motion by the construction workers at Lenin Square in Berlin, by the radio workers in Erfurt, the steelworkers of Riesa, the chemical workers in Leuna, the cooperative farmers in the "Lenin" agricultural production cooperative in Marzahn, the city committee of the National Front of Pasewalk and the scientists, lecturers, students and personnel of Rostock university, and which has achieved a fully new quality. In many factories and plants all the employees took part in the International Subbotnik and achieved first-rate production results. The young people taking part in the Lenin Campaign of the FDJ showed particular enthusiasm in connection with their slogan, "Learn, work and live in Lenin's spirit—accomplish great achievements for the all-round strengthening of the GDR". The young people of the republic proved their readiness to join actively in securing peace and protecting Socialism in a wide variety of ways.

At the central celebrations on 17 April and at the huge Berlin rally for the unveiling of the Lenin monument created by our friend Nicolai Tmsky, Comrade Ulbricht pointed out convincingly that the citizens of the GDR who are now constructing the developed Socialist society could only carry out their achievements under the banner of Leninism, the Marxism of our epoch.

The competition honouring Lenin achieved splendid results in the cultural and intellectual spheres. The profitable discussions held in the course of the scientific conferences centered around the tasks which still need to be solved. Most significant were the Philos-

ophers Congress on the theme "Lenin and Marxist-Leninist Philosophy in the GDR", the conference of the Karl Marx Party College of the Central Committee, which dealt with Lenin's teachings as the Marxism of our epoch and their implementation in the GDR, and the conference on "Scientific Management of a Socialist Society", sponsored by the Institute for Social Sciences and the Central Institute for Socialist Economic Management of the Central Committee.

A large number of social science conferences and meetings at the colleges and universities indicated the growing theoretical maturity of the college faculties and the students in absorbing and applying Leninism. Especially noteworthy are the many efforts of the students in a variety of forms to make their own contributions towards the perfection of the Socialist educational system at the colleges and technical schools.

Social scientists and publishing houses have laboured arduously to bring the works and the heritage of Lenin to as many people as possible. Their publishing programs this year have included over a hundred new works dealing with Lenin's achievements and personality.

A devotion to Leninism as the Marxism of our epoch found its expression in many works of art—in the DEFA feature film "On the Road to Lenin" and in the film symphony "Here I Am a Man", in contributions by writers, musical works by composers and exhibitions by pictorial artists. These and many other artistic achievements, in the field of drama as well, emphasize the power of the literature and art of Socialist realism.

The leaders of the party organisations should take it upon themselves to study the experience gained in preparing the Lenin celebrations and the 25th anniversary of the liberation from fascism in order to utilize them in our future work. The 25th anniversary of the victory over the fascist tyrants of Germany and Europe received particular significance in view of the fact that the GDR was able to become the German state of peace and Socialism by totally and irrevocably breaking with the sinister fascist-imperialist past, by establishing the power of the working class, thus overcoming inner divisions and winning the respect of a world.

I. The Competition for the 1970 National Economic Plan and the Preparation of the Long-Range Plan

Proceeding from the tasks set by the 12th Session of the Central Committee, the Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the Central Committee have discussed the current stand in fulfilling the 1970 National Economic Plan several times during the period covered by the report. At the same time, important measures for preparing the long-range plan for 1971–1975 were also initiated.

In a conference with the first secretaries of the county organisations on 13 February 1970, the Secretariat of the Central Committee dealt exhaustively with the tasks involved in fulfilling the National Economic Plan. Detailed obligations were worked out so as to ensure the concentrated application of all forces available in the party, government and economic organisations for guaranteeing the fulfilment of the plan in terms of assortment, quality and costs.

The 1970 National Economic Plan in industry was fulfilled by 39.4 per cent of the year's total up to 31 May of this year.

The party activist meetings and the membership meetings held as a follow-up to this conference of the county secretaries played an essential part in mobilizing the entire party and all working people at an early enough date to overcome the delays in the plan.

The emulation honouring the 100th anniversary of Lenin's birth and the 25th anniversary of the liberation of the German people from fascism was based on the fine idea that we can honour Lenin best by strengthening our Socialist homeland, the German Democratic Republic, in every way possible and by thus further altering the political balance of forces in favour of peace and Socialism.

In the course of this emulation, workers, engineers and scientists employed their knowledge and ability to achieve pioneering developments in decisive fields. Socialist emulation was able to attain a new quality by means of the improved application of the organisation of science, by the automation of whole systems in structurally determinant branches of industry and by Socialist complex rationalization in all enterprises. The intensive study of Lenin's thinking, which included his basic teachings on the decisive importance

of labour productivity in terms of world politics, contributed to this process.

If any further evidence is required that the working people of the German Democratic Republic struggle with great initiative, exemplary enthusiasm and discipline to strengthen the GDR in every way, then the common struggle of our population against the serious difficulties and damage caused by the past winter supplies such evidence. This hardest winter in many decades created extraordinary difficulties for the people working in industry, construction and transportation, trade and commerce, medicine and agriculture. The total sum of losses caused by winter damage or by interrupted production amounts to approximately 3,000 million marks.

It is a sign of the superiority of our Socialist state and social system that we were not only able to meet this challenge, but that despite the difficult circumstances, despite the temporary withdrawal of several hundred thousand working people from the work process as a result of illness, we were nevertheless able to improve on the achievements of last year, gradually to make up for the losses and to protect our society from even larger material damage.

Armed with the firm determination to overcome all difficulties caused by the bitter winter weather and to fulfil the plan every day, the working people of our republic have shown real heroism in carrying out their Socialist emulation, imbued as they were with the consciousness that every victory over such difficulties increases our strength and benefits our entire people. Industrial and office workers, cooperative farmers, agricultural and lumber-workers, members of the GDR's armed forces and Soviet troops, pupils, college students, housewives and pensioners—all did their very best to overcome difficulties, to clear transport routes, to guarantee the distribution of food and other commodities and to carry on with production.

The Central Committee of the SED wishes to express its thanks once again from this platform to the working class, the cooperative farmers and all working people in our republic for the magnificent job they did.

It is quite clear that very substantial efforts are still necessary in the weeks and months ahead, in all fields, in order to overcome the damage and the difficulties caused by the long, hard winter and

to guarantee the fulfilment of planned economic development. The decision by the Secretariat of the Central Committee of 15 April 1970 on the fulfilment of the National Economic Plan of 1970 outlines the task of achieving the full plan level again by making up for plan arrears in the shortest time possible. This goal is especially important because the fulfilment of the 1970 National Economic Plan is a decisive point of departure for the 1971–1975 long-range plan as well as an absolute prerequisite for the further improvement of living and working conditions.

The consciousness of their great responsibility as Socialist owners inspired many groups of employees to overcome the difficulties in fulfilling the plan by means of special work shifts and "subbotniks". They understand the necessity for strengthening the GDR, their peace-loving Socialist state, when they spend many additional hours at the work bench and make many personal sacrifices. This has helped to reduce substantially the arrears in commodity production. In both April and May, the monthly plans were completely fulfilled.

The employees of many enterprises, basing themselves on successes hitherto achieved in forming the economic system of Socialism and in mastering the scientific and technological revolution, have decided to continue the Socialist emulation under the same slogan as before: "Produce More Economically—For Yourself, for Your Enterprise, for Our Socialist Peace State".

The new initiative in this Socialist emulation drive is aimed at the highest possible increase in labour productivity, the lowering of costs and a high effectivity of social labour, achieved especially by consistent application of the law of the economy of time.

The concepts worked out for the competition in the Leuna Works "Walter Ulbricht" and the Silbitz Steel Foundry are excellent examples of how necessary steps for carrying out the scientific and technological revolution can be taken during the competition in accordance with the specific conditions in each plant.

The joint statement by the Central Committee of the SED, the Council of Ministers of the GDR, the Executive Committee of the FDGB and the Central Council of the FDJ on 28 May 1970 attests to the significance of this new initiative in Socialist emulation. The declaration includes the goals and the direction for the common

efforts of all working people in this competition. The Central Committee expects of all party organisations that they will work together with the trade union leadership in order to carry on Socialist emulation with clear-cut goals and, in this connection, to improve their political and ideological activities among the masses.

It is clear, of course, that Socialist emulation and the basic contents of the economic system of Socialism must include constant attention to the improvement of working and living conditions. All directors or managers who neglect progress in working and living conditions in their spheres of work must be reminded that differing social relationships are not only expressed for the working man by *what* he produces but also by *how* and under what conditions he works and lives. These conditions have a great influence on the creation of Socialist consciousness, on the optimism and activity of people engaged in the working process.

That means that to the extent that a responsible manager or director learns to make a constant improvement in working and living conditions a basic feature of his managerial work, an agreement of personal, collective and social interests will be established in the entire economic process of reproduction. The comrades in the trade unions should employ their constitutional rights to a far higher degree in this process and should consider it their obligation to help bring about changes with much greater vehemence.

The seminar of the Central Committee of the SED and the Council of Ministers of the GDR with factory managers, party secretaries and chairmen of trade union committees, organized by decision of the Secretariat from 30 March to 1 April 1970 in order to implement complex Socialist automation in certain selected enterprises, has contributed substantially towards establishing the new standards worked out at the 12th Session of the Central Committee as a foundation for further work on automation projects.

The Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the Central Committee have dealt repeatedly in the period covered by the report with preparations for the long-range plan from 1971–1975. The responsible government institutions were given the task of substantially improving the economic effectiveness of the plan proposals for the 1971–1975 long-range plan on the basis of Socialist organisation of science and the most modern technology.

The Political Bureau calls upon everyone to place the lowering of costs and further complex Socialist automation and rationalisation in the centre of their work when detailing the long-range plan. That also means working with all possible energy to achieve a substantially higher effectiveness for investments in the long-range plan for 1971–1975. Exaggerated generosity with material or financial resources must already be opposed vigorously at the planning stage.

In the days to come, the ministries, associations of nationally-owned industries (VVB), the plants and factories and the local government institutions will be receiving the key figures for the long-range plan. Together with the directives for working out the long-range plan and the "Basic Regulations for Building the Economic System of Socialism in the GDR in the 1971–1975 Period" decided upon by the Political Bureau, they form the basis for discussion on the long-range plan. In all discussions on the long-range plan it is especially vital to increase the responsibility of the working people as Socialist owners and to develop their initiative so as to achieve the highest advantages with the resources employed.

The tasks of Socialist organisation of science were determined in the decision of the Political Bureau in October 1969 on organisation of science in the chemical industry of the GDR and in the decisions of the 12th session of the Central Committee. The Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the Central Committee helped see to it that the main directions of development for large-scale research were worked out and their implementation was begun in the chemical industry and other decisive branches of the economy. At its 23rd Session, the State Council of the GDR analysed the level of organisation of science achieved in the chemical industry thus far and established the next tasks for further implementing the decision of the Political Bureau.

This decision by the State Council that increased labour productivity is, in the final analysis, decisive for the victory of the new, Socialist social system. The strategy of "passing without catching up" is based on this point laid down by Lenin because it is the only way that the political balance of power can further be altered

successfully to the advantage of peace and Socialism and that the imperialist global strategy can be halted.

In his interview with "Neues Deutschland" in connection with the exchange of party documents, Comrade Walter Ulbricht explained the principle of "passing without catching up". He said, "If we only wanted to achieve things which already existed somewhere in the world we would always be bringing up the rear. What is important is to find short-cuts, avoiding detours and certain whole stages of development, so that we can achieve things which do not yet exist anywhere, but which can be expected with certainty with the help of a prognostic view."

Implementing these decisions on the organisation of science means making heavy demands on the work of the party organisations. In their decision to continue Socialist emulation, the employees of the nationally-owned Leuna Works "Walter Ulbricht" formulated the unity of organisation of science, automation of whole systems, complex Socialist rationalisation and plan fulfilment. What is now important is to achieve a rapid tempo in implementing our planned goals by concentrating all of our material and intellectual potential and by a good organisation of scientific work.

On the Work in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance

In the period covered by the report the Political Bureau repeatedly dealt with questions of the GDR's activities in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and made arrangements for the work of the 23rd Extraordinary Session of the CMEA in order to systematically push forward international economic integration together with the Soviet Union and other member countries of the CMEA.

In the year between the 23rd and 24th sessions of the CMEA the comrades of the competent state and economic organs of our republic carried out many activities in the GDR and in the international working groups to make a decisive contribution to the preparation of the program of integration of the CMEA member

countries in accordance with the Marxist-Leninist line worked out by our party together with the CPSU and other fraternal parties. An important event for the further deepening of economic and scientific-technical cooperation in the CMEA and for the strengthening of our Socialist community of states was the 24th session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. This session, held from 12-14 May 1970 in Warsaw and attended by the chairmen of the councils of ministers of the CMEA countries discussed how far the complex future-oriented program for the further deepening and perfecting of cooperation and the development of Socialist economic integration of the CMEA member countries had been elaborated and made concrete arrangements.

The 24th session of the CMEA fully confirmed that in the CMEA the main emphasis must be laid on strengthening the planned character of our relations and on dealing with and solving of concrete problems of cooperation in material production in order to achieve in science, technology and production the necessary concentration of forces on the achievement of pioneering and peak performances, the highest increase in labour productivity and increase in effectiveness.

The session discussed measures for perfecting commodity-money relations among the CMEA countries. This includes especially the improvement and expansion of the activities of the International Bank for Economic Cooperation, the perfecting of the system of multi-lateral clearings of transferrable rubles and the greater use of short-term credits in the development of foreign trade turnover.

These central tasks and stipulations determine the basic direction of further work on the program of Socialist economic integration. The session of the Council noted that the working groups of the CMEA had worked out important problems with regard to the perfecting of the system of cooperation. This is true of principles in the sphere of planning, especially with regard to cooperation in prognostics and for perfecting the coordination of plans, as well as for the development of foreign exchange and financial relations.

The session of the CMEA made important decisions leading to an increase in the role played by the planning bodies in multi-lateral cooperation among countries. On this score the GDR delegation made concrete proposals, especially with regard to the joint

solution of structure-determining tasks and projects in the period of prognosis and long-term planning.

The CMEA session decided that the chairmen of the planning organs carry out regular sessions. The goal of these discussions will mainly be to connect economic measures of integration more closely with the long-range plans of the CMEA countries. The task is to coordinate even more closely important tasks of the development of the national structure, especially in the basic industries and in the processing industries, and to advance the introduction of progressive technological processes in the most important branches of the national economy, the creation of new kinds of equipment and complex machinery systems on the basis of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the GDR, the Mongolian People's Republic, the People's Republic of Poland, the USSR and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic approved the agreement and the statute of the International Investment Bank of the CMEA countries. This bank will contribute to the highly efficient use of the material and financial resources of the CMEA countries for the solution of tasks of common interest.

The Political Bureau asks the party organizations in the enterprises, combines, research establishments and central state organs to take into account the requirements and possibilities resulting from international Socialist economic integration in their elaboration of the 1971–1975 long-range plan.

What is to Be Done in Our Villages

The agricultural and forestry workers are mastering complicated tasks. They are countering the hard winter and the extreme spring by making great efforts and working hard, thus safeguarding supplies for the population. The past months have again shown that our Socialist system and the cooperative work of farmers in the GDR are standing the test not only in good years, but also and in spite of difficult situations. With us nobody depends on himself alone. Cooperation in the cooperative farms and among

the cooperatives, as well as the permanent care and aid of our Socialist state are an absolute guarantee for the further development of agriculture. They are the basis for a secure life and future certainty of every individual farmer.

The decisions of the Political Bureau of 13 January 1970 with regard to the report submitted by the Secretariat of the Schwerin County Committee and of 10 February 1970 on measures for the promotion of agricultural production cooperatives (LPGs) with a low level of production were of fundamental importance for the further implementation of the decisions of the Seventh Party Congress in Socialist agriculture. Here the attention of all county and district committees was directed to the strengthening of political and ideological activities and to concentrate the will and energy of all cooperative farmers on the further Socialist intensification and growth of yields. Now all party members and cooperative farmers must be determined to fulfil the 1970 national economic plan in every cooperative farm.

The aim of the decision to promote cooperative farms with a low level of production is to open up one of the biggest sources of an increase in agricultural productions and thus of stable supplies for the population by the mobilization of all reserves of production in these cooperatives. In our Socialist society there are neither social nor economic reasons for cooperative farms to stay behind in the level of production. If this is sometimes the case, however, the reason is that on the one hand the state and economic organs do not pay sufficient attention to the differing natural and economic conditions of production; on the other hand managerial work in these cooperatives is insufficient and the chairman and other managerial personnel must qualify themselves. Where cooperative democracy is not stressed and Socialist farm management is not fully carried out there cannot be the necessary progress.

At the district and county farmers' conferences, held in the period covered by the report, it became clear that the members of the LPGs feel more and more responsible not only for their cooperatives or for their cooperation associations, but also for the whole. A characteristic feature of these conferences was that many new forces discussed fundamental questions of development and reported on the good experiences they have gathered. The

number of tested, politically and technically qualified organizers of cooperative production is steadily increasing.

These conferences also showed, however, that the state and economic bodies must deal with important problems more quickly and thoroughly. This is especially true of Socialist intensification under the conditions of the scientific and technological revolution, the new problems in Socialist management, as well as of the further extension of cooperation relations and the qualification of the working people in Socialist agriculture. One of the most important results of the county and district farmers' conferences for the county and district committees, for the councils of agricultural production and the food industry with their production managements is that they must attach much more attention to the selection, training and employment of leading personnel who come from the agricultural production cooperations themselves.

In the period covered by the report the Secretariat of the Central Committee repeatedly dealt with how far the plan had been fulfilled in Socialist agriculture. Although the fodder situation in many LPGs and nationally-owned farms (VEGs) was and still is very tense the national economic plan for slaughter cattle was fulfilled with 100.1 per cent of 31 May 1970 and for eggs with 105.0 per cent. With regard to milk it was not possible to avoid arrears. This is largely due to the fact that as a result of last year's drought there was a lack of roughage and forage on many cooperative farms. This spring the cattle were driven out to pasture a fortnight or three weeks later. The new green fodder period had to be used energetically to reduce arrears in milk. In this context great attention must be paid to the planned increase in the stock of cows.

In the last few months it was necessary to purchase more slaughter cattle and slaughter poultry to offset deficits in the production of slaughter pigs. Thus instead of pork more beef and slaughter poultry was placed at the disposal of the population. In the months ahead, too, these changed relations will be maintained.

The losses of slaughter pigs are due to crop damages suffered last year, especially in potatoes and grain which could not be fully offset in spite of additional imports of grain.

What tasks do the party organizations of the cooperative farms,

the horticultural production cooperatives (GPG) and nationally-owned farms, the state and economic bodies face? The first and foremost task is still the consistent struggle for the fulfilment of the 1970 national economic plan and the setting up of a firm basis for production for the period 1971 to 1975. Following the example of the Lenin LPG in Marzahna Socialist emulation is to be carried out everywhere in accordance with local conditions and the level of development. Every LPG and every VEG that has plan debts must thoroughly discuss how and when they will be reduced. No farming area must be allowed to remain unused. Everywhere we must struggle for a high production of fodder in fields and pastures. The cereal and hoed vegetable harvest must be prepared with care.

The shorter period of vegetation and the resulting condensation of many kinds of work requires additional helping hands, especially for the cultivation of cultures. It must be a common concern of party organizations, the executive committees of the LPGs and the communal councils to win among the population of the villages workers for these tasks.

The last few weeks and months have clearly shown how all that has been grown by great efforts can be harvested without great losses. In this respect use must be made of the good experiences by agra 1970.

On 13 June the Markleeberg agricultural exhibition will open its gates again. Cooperative farmers and agricultural workers from all cooperative and nationally-owned farms should thoroughly familiarize themselves with the best experiences in how to increase yields, labour productivity and decrease costs. The Secretariat of the Central Committee confirmed the basic line for agra 1970 and decided to hold a seminar of several days duration with leading party cadres.

II. Perfecting the System of State Leadership

The Political Bureau can state that progress in strengthening the power of our Socialist state and in the development of a system

of scientific state leadership was also made during the period following the 12th meeting of the Central Committee.

The Council of Ministers laid down measures for the improvement of prognostic work and of the planning system, in accordance with the decisions of the 12th session of the Central Committee of the SED. During the period covered by the report the Political Bureau adopted the documents on the basic tasks for the further implementation of the developed social system of Socialism during the period 1971–1975, submitted by the Council of Ministers; it confirmed measures for the scientific planning and management of the reproduction process for the ministries and tasks in the domain of automation and complex Socialist rationalization. The political Bureau and the Council of Ministers decided on the tasks, working methods and system of management of the workers' and farmers' inspection in the construction of the developed social system of Socialism. In this way an important sub-system of the control and information system to be worked out by the Council of Ministers was established.

New ways of thinking on a larger scale are now being demanded from the heads and from all the staff of the organs of state. It is more important than ever to conduct a resolute struggle against formal routine and narrow-mindedness. The preparation, course and results of the elections of the district, town and borough councils and community representative bodies on 22 March 1970 may be assessed as a convincing avowal to the policy of the party and the state.

The Council of State decision of 16 April 1970 on "The Further Development of the System of Planning and Management of Economic and Social Development, Supplies for and Care of the Population in the Counties, Districts, Towns and Communities" is of great significance for the further development of the entire system of state leadership. Its principles establish significant criteria for the political and ideological work of the party and all the forces united within the National Front. The draft decision of the GDR Council of State had been an important and widely discussed subject at meetings held before the municipal elections. Local authorities, enterprises and National Front committees in many towns and communities are undertaking the first joint steps to

create the prerequisites for the implementation of the extensive aims.

The decision is based on the concept that the prognostic activity, the long-term and annual planning by the local authorities constitutes an inseparable component part of scientific leadership and needs to be further improved. In this way the prerequisites are provided for deriving scientifically-substantiated decisions on basic problems of territorial development for long-term and annual plans by calculating back from prognostic findings. The main points of importance in this connection are the most effective development of the territorial structure, the full utilization of the social basic funds and the rational use of material and financial funds for the fulfilment of the plan tasks. The manysided interlacements and reciprocal relations of social and economic life must be considered and cooperation between towns and communities and enterprises and combines must be decidedly promoted.

The Nationally-Owned Textile Combine in Cottbus, the Cottbus Municipal Assembly and the Cottbus Council constitute an interesting example of cooperation between enterprises and local authorities. Their action is based on the awareness of the fact that the automated production in the factory could not be separated from the development of the Socialist living conditions of people living in Cottbus. The social and cultural institutions, the services and trade establishments in Cottbus were planned, even during the preparation of investment measures, not only from the aspect of their immediate usefulness to the combine, but also in the interests of the town population. It is important to ensure that this cooperation should not only be confined to material and financial problems, but also include the intellectual and cultural life in enterprises and the town. We consider that this is a correct road which will not only lead to temporary or only to material and technical results, but which will also establish durable community relations in conformity with the prognostic aims of our social development.

The scientific planning and management of the economic and social processes in the counties, districts, towns and communities serves the development of the social system of Socialism and the

mastery of the scientific and technological revolution. If results are achieved in the work of planning and management in this domain, we are at the same time creating the prerequisites for working out and applying the principles of Socialist communal policy.

Conclusions to Be Drawn by Representative Bodies and the National Front

Generalization and application of the best experiences in political and ideological work mean, as far as the people's representative bodies and the National Front committees are concerned, convincing all citizens, in the course of principled yet tactful political argumentation, so that each one in his place makes the highest possible personal contribution to strengthening our Socialist homeland. The activity of the National Front committees and the increased ideological influence of the working class in the residential areas will also improve the political activity of tenants' associations.

The National Front committees in Ludwigsfelde are doing exemplary work. They influence their territory and its structurally decisive factory by means of living and convincing argumentation. Eighty per cent of the teams at the factory—the IFA Automobile Works—who are struggling for a state title, include pledges to assist the residential areas in their brigade programmes. They are thereby helping to spread the Socialist way of life in the town.

We need systematic and planned cooperation between the people's representative bodies, the state authorities and all citizens, so that results which rapidly become visible and effective may be achieved; cooperation based on a wider view and knowledge of the central aims, supported by clear ideas about all the tasks to be fulfilled by each local community within the framework of the whole program. That is why the local authorities need to be precise in their calculations and balances, to think out to the end and discuss planned measures with the working people.

The Town Council of Suhl set an example in discussing the national economic plan with the entire population. The draft was

submitted for discussion at all meetings of local inhabitants in all parts of the town and at the major large enterprises. A total of 7,800 workers was introduced to the plan projects of the town at team meetings, and hundreds of other citizens were informed at meetings of craftsmen, young people and women, and many were won for participation in their fulfilment. They came forward to help in the construction of the sport rifle range in Suhl, to enlarge the central clubhouse and to renovate the swimming baths. In long-term programs involving ten enterprises of the town measures concerning the joint utilization of funds and notable improvements in working and living conditions were laid down.

The aim consists in establishing cooperation between deputies and enterprises, National Front committees and citizens, and with other towns and villages, with a view to the joint and economic utilization of available material and financial means, in Socialist team work, for the improvement of the housing and living conditions of the citizens.

The Council of State decision gave and continues to give new impulses to the emulation: "Help beautify our towns and communities!" Increasing awareness is spreading, that in this emulation the efforts of the entire community are to be directed towards the fulfilment of the national economic plans. Representative bodies and the population are confronted in this respect with a wide scope for the most meaningful utilization of available financial and material means, and for multiplying available resources through the initiative of citizens. Numerous enlightening talks are still required in the National Front committees and with citizens in order to make these considerations generally accepted by all. As an important item in these discussions, the need to use building materials and other material won from local reserves exclusively for the fulfilment of the plan should be underlined. National Front committees in the rural communities are faced with the additional task of making the fulfilment of agricultural tasks a matter of concern for the entire village population and winning as many helpers as possible for sowing, cultivation and harvesting work. In this as in other respects work and leisure should be reasonably linked with each other. The summer months in particular offer favourable opportunities for a many-sided and interesting

intellectual and cultural life in towns, villages and recreation centres. Residential festivals, park festivals and sports contests are becoming increasingly popular.

In many towns and communities the local authorities have started to use new methods in dealing with petitions addressed to them, such as that of public consultation and decision. Yet now as before there are cases of negligent and bureaucratic attitudes on the part of individual officials in view of citizens addressing petitions, suggestions or criticisms to the local state authorities. The review of particularly extreme cases has revealed that various state authorities failed to act with the necessary consistency against such violations of the law as the failure to consider or failure to reply to petitions, shifting responsibility for the criticized circumstances, or failing to keep promises.

Thus the Worbis District Council in Erfurt county has no clear idea about petitions. No strict control was exercised in regard to the consideration of petitions by its departments. This results in frequent failures to keep to schedule, and even in failure to deal with petitions at all.

Bureaucratic distortions of this kind, however, are in contradiction to the nature of our system. The Socialist official of the GDR feels and acts as a servant of the people. Complacency must be alien and objectionable to him. He will never forget that our population judges the state, among other things, by the way in which its individual representatives and employees act. The GDR disposes over an army of such people in all domains of social life, who carry out their function selflessly and actively, as upright Socialists, always giving great attention to all concerns of the population.

Our People's Representatives Must Know a Great Deal

The new tasks linked with the planning and direction of social life in the counties, districts, towns and communities call for a considerable higher standard of political and technical knowledge on the part of all deputies and civil servants. After the elections there was an increased proportion of deputies in the representa-

tive bodies—workers, women and young people—with a college or technical school education.

It is necessary, however, that the deputies and civil servants, in particular the thousands of elected representatives in office for the first time, should be helped to recognize the political, economic and social causes and connections associated with the Council of State decision on Socialist communal policy. They should be shown the latest methods and means of finding rational solutions of problems and the best experiences in mobilizing citizens to democratic activity should be imparted to them. The decisive aspect of further training measures is to impart applicable and practicable knowledge, acquired above all by the analysis of the best examples and experiences.

In Halle the deputies of the county assembly are qualified in the following way: the Council submits a qualification plan together with the annual plan of work to the county assembly, which the latter decides on. As a rule training courses are conducted for all deputies, 4 to 6 weeks before the session of the assembly, generally on the subject to be discussed at the session. The lectures are given by scientists or leading state officials, who explain the party and state decisions taken in the sphere concerned, as well as the latest findings of scientific research and practice.

Problems of the modern science of management and their application in state practice are also presented. The participation by deputies in working groups, where deputies of various commissions, state officials, scientists and outstanding practical workers and pace-setters work together is considered as an effective means of qualification. The deputies are provided with informational material in good time before the session of the county assembly on the respective subjects from the county statistical centre, and other material from the relevant departments concerning applications sent in by the population. The permanent commissions independently decide on which specific subjects they would like for their own qualification measures. All deputies are free to participate. In the system of further qualification for state officials organized by the enterprise academy.

The leading bodies of the parties and the basic party organizations in the state administration organs are obliged to dedicate

the utmost attention to scientific management, the further development of our Socialist democracy and the selection, preparation and qualification of cadres. They must attribute more importance to the work of the people's representative bodies and to the comrades working there.

It is inadmissible that the leading party organs should be operating mainly with a staff of full-time state officials. Particular attention must be paid to the newly elected deputies. The participation of secretaries and other comrades of the leading party organs in the permanent commissions and representative bodies, as required by the program of our party, has stood the test.

The party organizations in the state administration organs bear a great responsibility for the uniform, disciplined and enterprising application of the party and state policy within their spheres of competence. These question should also be thoroughly discussed in the course of the forthcoming exchange of party documents.

The district party committees must give more support to the basic organizations in the town and community councils, so that they fulfil their tasks in a highly qualified way. Civic consciousness and confidence by citizens in their Socialist state are largely influenced by the degree of efficiency with which the people's representative bodies and their departments in the towns and municipalities accomplish their responsible tasks jointly with the population.

III. Some Problems of Science and Public Education

On 10 March 1970 the Political Bureau decided on the continuation of the Academy Reform and confirmed the concept on the development of the Socialist organization of science at the German Academy of Sciences. That institution is to be developed as a research academy of Socialist society. Its natural science and social science research potential will be systematically utilized for the further development of the developed social system of Socialism in the GDR. Research is to make a vital contribution towards providing the theoretical foundations for the scientific and

technical development of the domains of decisive importance for our future national economic structure, under the aspect of aims derived from prognostic surveys and with the aid of interdisciplinary research projects. The implementation of interdisciplinary tasks, arising from the development of large-scale research in the domains of decisive structural policy is especially important. This calls for the development of the foundations of entirely new technologies, work and effectiveness principles of system and process solutions with a high degree of national economic efficiency, according to the principle "overtake without catching up".

In view of the great responsibility of the German Academy of Sciences in the fulfilment of these tasks and the implementation of the Socialist organization of science, the GDR Council of State decided on 12 March 1970 on the "Further Continuation of the Academy Reform in the Shaping of the Developed Social System of Socialism in the GDR".

Detailed discussions on these decisions show that the staff of the German Academy of Sciences recognized this development as being correct and necessary, and participate with great personal initiative in accomplishing the tasks.

During the period covered by the report the Political Bureau on repeated occasions dealt with the continuation of the Third University Reform. It was established that numerous new initiatives and results in the renewal of the content of training, the development of scientifically productive studies and the introduction of new teaching and learning methods were available. The introduction of the new plans of basic studies has been completed in all subjects. The next move will be the further improvement of these plans in accordance with the latest scientific results and the requirements of practice. This is at present being done in an exemplary way in the fields of chemistry and chemical engineering, where a complete new orientation has been introduced with the transition from training related to substance to process-oriented training.

In the study of the foundations of Marxism-Leninism as well, efforts are being made to raise the scientific level and intensify the effectiveness for the Socialist class education of students. The new skeleton curricula are being systematically introduced, with

particular emphasis on the intensified study of the classics of Marxism-Leninism and the basic documents of the party. In the course of the present academic year the social councils of the universities and colleges have reviewed the status of the class-education of students. The University and Technical School Council of the GDR consulted in March on the further improvement of the effectiveness of the study of the foundations of Marxism-Leninism.

The seriousness and determination shown by our university teachers in the effort to improve and consolidate their philosophical, economic and historical education merit high appreciation. They create favourable prerequisites for raising the contribution of all scientific disciplines to the class-education of the students.

The Political Bureau welcomes the great readiness of scientists to assist in the shaping of our Socialist system of higher education. It is pleasing to note that, apart from the older, experienced leading staff of institutions of higher learning, a large number of young scientists have been entrusted with responsible functions, which they are fulfilling in an excellent way.

The further tasks of higher education may be summed up in the main points of the Socialist emulation, to which the members of the Dresden Technical University have called all universities, colleges and technical schools of the GDR;

- uncompromising struggle for pioneering and top performances in education, training, further training and research;
- allround plan fulfilment in 1970 and precise drafting of the long-term plan for 1971–1975;
- development of manysided intellectual, cultural and sports activities at the universities, colleges and technical schools.

At the consultation convened by the Central Council of the Free German Youth on 13 May 1970 with young social scientists, students and young scientific workers of all social science disciplines a critical and creative discussion on the status of the Third University Reform in the sphere of social science was conducted. They demanded the intensification of the studies of the classics of Marxism-Leninism and of the class education of students, and the establishment of closer links with working-class youth.

The exhaustive study of the wealth of the works of the classics,

the party decisions and documents and inclusion in revolutionary practice should be the foundations of the training and education of young social scientists.

An analysis of the level and effectiveness of the Marxist-Leninist social sciences will reveal shortcomings, without overcoming of which the social scientists in the GDR will not be able to do justice to the requirements confronting them in the work of Socialist construction in the GDR and the struggle against hostile ideology. Contributions to discussions and articles still frequently stop at generalizations and have only a descriptive character.

The causes are in many cases due to the fact that the experiences collected by our innovators and Socialist teams in the struggle for the fulfilment of plans and the concrete problems of Socialist practice are not given due attention. Social scientists will increase the effectiveness of their work if they become acquainted at first hand with the thinking and acting of the pace-setters in industry and agriculture and give answers to the questions posed by life and by the development of Socialist society.

It further becomes clear that team work between the different disciplines of the social sciences is inadequately developed. The circumstance that many social scientists work in isolation from one another limits the use of their research and their mass-effectiveness in disseminating Marxist-Leninist world outlook.

It is necessary to apply the principles of the Socialist organization of science rapidly and comprehensively to social science research, in order to exclude the sources of error and to raise the effectiveness of the Marxist-Leninist social sciences.

The Seventh Pedagogical Congress

The Seventh Pedagogical Congress, which was held in Berlin from 5 to 7 May was a political event of considerable import.

The party and state leadership paid tribute to the achievements of our educators and the significance of the education system by sending a delegation from the Political Bureau, led by Comrade Walter Ulbricht, and a delegation from the Council of Ministers, led by Comrade Willi Stoph. More than 3,200 delegates and guests

gave a moving demonstration of their faith in the GDR and in the policy of the party and state leadership.

The Minister of Education, Comrade Margot Honecker, made a report in which she outlined the developmental problems of the education system, giving examples of how these are being solved in the course of enforcing the law on the integrated Socialist educational system and citing recent scientific findings.

An example of the great confidence our party places in those who teach the people was the speech of Comrade Walter Ulbricht, who gave a comprehensive analysis, from the standpoint of prognosis, of the basic lines along which our Socialist society and the policy of the party are to develop in the 70's, indicating what new requirements would be made of the public education system.

The Seventh Pedagogical Congress was able to give a good report of the way in which the law on the integrated Socialist educational system and the decisions of the Seventh Party Congress are being carried out in education. Our educational system, in connection with an efficient ten-year polytechnical secondary school which offers an all-round education, has proved its functional value over many years of successful work.

At the same time the Seventh Pedagogical Congress made a significant contribution to elaborating further the theory of the education and training of young people in a developed Socialist society. It worked out the tasks of the school in a developed Socialist society and defined the complex of measures necessary to meeting the main responsibilities of the education system in the 70's. This consists in making the ten-year education a reality for all children throughout the GDR and carrying through the new syllabus with top efficiency, relying on the full cooperation of the people, the resourcefulness of the teachers, the active support of the scientists, and exemplary Socialist leadership guidance.

The ten-year general polytechnical secondary school in the GDR guarantees our citizens the kind of education and training which the further development of an advanced Socialist society will require. It must prepare the youth of today for the year 2000.

As with our society as a whole, the public education system too can only be regulated on the basis of a comprehensive application of science. A first-rate educational system demands stronger

concentration on distinguished research achievements and speedy utilization of their results.

The Seventh Pedagogical Congress underlined the great social responsibility of those who teach and guide young people. The implementation of the school policy of party and government depends to a decisive degree on their politically conscious and effective work.

Constant attention must be given to guaranteeing that on the basis of the syllabus the latest findings of science and social science become available to the schools. Only in this way can the educational system win the race against time.

Improvement of the working and living conditions of educators, and care for their further training, deserve special attention from all party and state authorities. We also call the attention of the public education and party executives to the need for further improving cooperation in the schools, particularly the development of teacher-collectives, and giving the young teachers still more aid in their work.

The responsibility of all social forces, of the working class, the agricultural cooperatives, the parents, the FDJ (Free German Youth), the Pioneer organization, and the educators, artists and scientists for the Socialist education and training of the young grows in proportion to the greater demands on the educational system, in accordance with Comrade Walter Ulbricht's demand that "all leading bodies of the party, the state, the economy and the mass organizations . . . each consider for themselves how our Socialist school can be given more all-round political-ideological and material-technical assistance".

The plenary meetings of shop stewards at the Walter Ulbricht Leuna Works and the Elstertal Steel Foundry, and the membership meeting of the Lenin Agricultural Production Cooperative in Marzahn made a point of declaring that their influence on the Socialist education and training of young people in the schools would be a part of the contest for fulfilling the 1970 national economic plan.

The high level of the Seventh Pedagogical Congress sets the highest standards for the state education authorities in evaluating and realizing its findings in each and every school.

It is necessary to raise the standard of the work and of material-technical progress to the same level in all countries districts and schools and to overcome quickly the differences that still exist. This must be the aim of the political-ideological work of the party organizations in the normal schools and teachers' training and further training institutions. Concrete on-the-spot assistance is to be given the party branches by the leading party authorities.

We regard the Seventh Pedagogical Congress as a milestone in the development of our Republic's Socialist school system and the integration of the school into the general Socialist system. It introduced a new stage in fulfilling the party's and government's decisions in the education system. The Congress showed what great achievements the educational system can yield thanks to the power of the workers and farmers, who have made it possible for every child to attend a modern, efficient school.

As we look down from the shining tower of our educational system to the pitiful condition of the public schools in West Germany, we would be inclined to laugh, and also be indignant, to hear Bonn's Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister Scheel declare: "The GDR must still go through a process of education."

The rulers over a West Germany where, in thousands of cases, pupils of several different grades are squeezed into a single schoolroom—

these gentlemen who, in important fields, let boys and girls graduate from school knowing no more than our twelve-year-olds—

these gentlemen who deluge West German youth with a Niagara falls of printed and filmed bestial pornographic filth—

these gentlemen who take sides with Washington's mass murderers and once again, as before, are poisoning the minds of West German youth with revanchism and anti-Communism—

these gentlemen have the gall to give us marks in political pedagogy.

Inhumanity aspires to sit in judgement over a republic and its school and educational system which is imbuing the coming generation with a wealth of humanity and knowledge, dignity and ideals never before known on German soil.

The impertinent intriguer against the GDR, to whose outrageous statement not one Social Democratic minister took exception, only

exhibited once more the arrogance of the Hallstein doctrine, the presumption, of which every decent person in the world is heartily sick, that West Germany is the only legitimate spokesman for the German people.

Regarding Our Artistic and Cultural Life

There has also been a generally positive development in the field of art and culture. The Sixth Congress of the Union of Pictorial Artists of the GDR was an important contribution to the further ideological clarification of the social function of artistic creation, whose aim, the ennoblement of man, can be achieved only in our Socialist society.

This democratic conference, which was governed by an optimistic, future-oriented attitude, once more confirmed the correctness of the Bitterfeld Road. In the process of productive meetings with the workers, the artists have gained important new perceptions into the relation between their art and the world around them. Through direct cooperation with architects, building workers and other working people, significant progress has been made in the synthesis of architecture and the graphic and plastic arts, monumental art, and the complex Socialist arrangement of our environment. Through their contacts with the workers, the artists were stimulated by the example of Socialist cooperative work to use the abundant potentialities for their own artistic work. Their consciousness of responsibility for the whole of our Socialist society is growing in this process. They feel a new kind of happiness which arises from the realization that art is actually indispensable to life in our Socialist society which the artist needs and which is his social home. Berlin sculptor Hans Kies was speaking for many other artists when he took the floor at the Congress and said: "We are creating our Socialist realist art for the working class, for the people. It has to speak their language."

In the creative atmosphere of the cultural workers' intellectual life, cooperation with the Soviet Union has also reached a higher level. The conferences held by the Central Institute of the History

of Literature in the German Academy of Sciences, by the German Academy of Arts and by the German Writers' Union with Soviet scientists and artists fortify the firm common interests of Socialist literature and art in the intellectual offensive of Socialism.

Comrade Walter Ulbricht's proposal at the 12th session of the Central Committee that preparations for the Workers' Festival be given a broader basis was important to the further fulfilment of the leading role of the working class in the intellectual and cultural life of our Socialist society and the enhancement of its creative and cultural potentiality. In the period covered by this report, the Political Bureau took a position on the Workers' Festival and sketched out its coming development. The nearly 300 festivals being carried through or at present prepared in the big enterprises, combines, and agricultural production cooperatives, as well as the numerous economic and cultural emulations, promote the fulfilment of cultural and educational plans in the Socialist work collectives, accelerate the integration of culture into the complex processes of leadership, and strengthen cooperation between enterprises and geographical regions in the sphere of intellectual and cultural life. In this way amateur artistic activity bids fair to become a widespread movement for the aesthetic education and development of all the people.

The all-round development of a culture commensurate with Socialism demands a higher stage in the acquisition, conservation and continuation of the humanist heritage. This fundamental concern characterizes the resolution of the Political Bureau on the Beethovens Tribute of the GDR and the resolution of the Secretariat of the Central Committee on the Friedrich Hölderlin Tribute. To keep alive significant traditions and to make accessible the finest achievements of the humanist heritage is a permanent duty and obligation.

In carrying forward the initiative of our republic's artists and cultural workers, it will be especially important

- to create new literary and other artistic works which present a picture of Socialist man and his community,
- to stimulate the artists and cultural workers to a thorough study of Marxism-Leninism, to bring them closer to those who are setting an example in production and in community service and to

- utilize new experiences in Socialist community work for their artistic productions, and
- to bring about collaboration between the state authorities, the enterprises, the mass organizations, the artists and the cultural workers for a complete development of intellectual and cultural activity in all towns and communities and for a Socialist arrangement of the environment, and for opening up new possibilities for nearby recreation for the working people.

IV. Experiences and Results of Party Life

The Central Committee has decided to issue new membership books and candidates' cards between 1 September and 31 October 1970 because in 1971 the party documents of the majority of party members expire.

The Political Bureau resolution of 3 February and the Secretariat directives of 10 February 1970 ensure that the exchange of documents will be prepared and carried through with organizational precision and high political effectiveness.

The Significance of the Exchange of Party Documents

As Comrade Walter Ulbricht convincingly explained in his interview with *Neues Deutschland* we see a political task of primary importance in the exchange of party documents. If all party organizations further intensify their scientific leadership activity, if the membership meetings and the talks with all members and candidate-members spur each comrade to greater effort, then more has been accomplished than a mere inner-party procedure. Everything that draws together more closely our unity of thinking and acting has an immediate effect on the dynamics of social development and the power of our peaceful Socialist state.

To us the leading role of the party is secure theoretical knowledge and at the same time practice that has proved itself a thousand-fold.

The party work of today determines our life of tomorrow in every sense. In the coming period there is probably no essential economic, scientific and technical or intellectual and cultural task which is not intimately bound up with such an important operation in the life of the party as the exchange of party documents.

In the decisive decade of the 1970s we have great aims to achieve—which means that the knowledge of the *what, why* and *how*, must become, through the comrades' powers of persuasion, a part of the thinking of all working people.

We want to develop to the fullest the abundant capacities and the creative talents of our people as a whole and of each individual—which means that the members of our alliance of struggle must move forward boldly with the insight of planners, leaders, and Socialist owners, and sweep others along with them.

Lenin's slogan, "Socialism influences by example", has complete validity for us. It is always the comrades who in an exemplary way develop the ability to think things out in advance, to recognize connections, bear responsibility for the whole, and consciously set an example of what Socialism means.

As is known V. I. Lenin at the Second Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party gave a striking analysis of the meaning of party membership, which differed from Martov's opportunistic formulation principally in the demand that the party be supported by material means as well as through personal activity in one of the party organizations. The Socialist Unity Party has always endorsed this principle, both in its statute and in practice. The membership book of the SED unites each comrade with like-minded people in our community of passionate Marxist-Leninists. It confers the right to take part creatively in the intellectual life of our party and to make a decisive contribution to the discussions as well as in making decisions on the policy of the SED. It imposes the obligation of carrying out the program and the resolutions and being active to the best of one's ability in the collective of the party branch for our common cause.

The exchange of documents provides, through confidential discussions, the opportunity to help every member in a comradely way to fill still more effectively the place in which the party expects him to do his utmost. Everyone involved in the life around him

realizes very well that today more than ever it is crucial for each party member continuously to raise his educational level, consolidate his political and ideological steadfastness, and acquire high leadership qualities.

One of the merits of our Marxist-Leninist party is that it expects its members to become truly versatile personalities in the Marxist sense, and that it effectively helps them in this direction. So when we emphasize the self-improvement of the party member of the 1970s, we see it as an expression of the profound agreement between the demands of society and the individual's need to develop his own personality and live a rich and meaningful life. As a great collective, we are consciously setting an example in what we regard as the greatest of all humanist concerns, the self-fulfilment of man.

The fact that the ideologists of West Germany's anti-human imperialist system of rule refer to this as an alleged "purge", as "ideological screening," "party grilling" and other nonsense, only demonstrates once again how narrow they are and how incapable of grasping intellectually what a Marxist-Leninist party means. But what they are quite understandably alarmed about is obviously the experience that we utilize every opportunity to sharpen the steel blade of the party as a weapon against imperialism.

Our fighting efficiency is based on the conscious unity and integrity of our forces, on the inviolability of the principles of democratic centralism. A comrade's word has weight in our party. It is his political homeland. With constructive ideas and forward-oriented activity, everyone takes part in shaping the general will and arriving at decisions, as well as carrying out the resolutions democratically adopted by the elected leaderships. The proposals of all party members and candidates as to more effective methods of party work will occupy an important place in the discussions connected with the exchange of party documents. The Central Committee in its decisions has obligated all executive committees to evaluate these proposals conscientiously. Through making Lenin's standards of party life still more deeply rooted in our party, we are not only the strongest but also the most democratic party on German soil. We do not only talk about democracy, we make it a reality in the practice of our party life.

The Party Organs' Leadership

It is clear at the present time that in the basic organizations the struggle to fulfil plans, to equalize plans and to achieve pioneering and peak results is especially successful where party committees and members give working people convincing answers and place themselves at the head of Socialist emulation.

The leadership activity of the county and district committees should be organized in such a way that the basic organizations are given constant operative help and that the carrying out of decisions is strictly controlled. Exact plans for measures to be taken must guarantee that the exchange is prepared and conducted with a high sense of responsibility and organizational precision. The coordinating commissions of the county and district committees must do effective work to this end. The hundreds of thousands of voluntary workers required must be selected with great foresight and prepared for their duties in good time.

What characterizes the work of guidance of the party organs in the eventful period covered by this report?

- The scientific level of leadership by the county and district committees has risen further. The work in connection with carrying out the decisions of the Central Committee has become more effective with the masses.

- The political, ideological and organizational work in the struggle to fulfil the plan was increasingly closely linked with systematic automation and complex rationalization.

- The county and district committees stepped up guidance and direct help to the basic organizations, so as to promote intellectual life in every collective party group, conduct members' meetings of a high standard and to ensure through party assignments that all party members and candidates are drawn into carrying out decisions.

Here we should again like to stress that the essence of party work is not narrow-minded practicism but clearly aimed orientation and effective work with people. The art of leadership consists in presenting the right tasks at the right time and detecting and clarifying the ideological problems concealed in every specialized economic and technical task. The standard of the work of convincing people

must always correspond to the level of consciousness and intellectual demands of growing Socialist individuals and collective groups.

The highest effectiveness in party work is not to be found where a party organization takes over the work of government managers but where party education helps to train Socialist managers with high qualities of character and leadership.

The county and district committees and the basic organizations are well advised when they devote close attention to the training and education of heads of enterprises and combines. These people bear a great responsibility to the party and to society as a whole. The tempo of further successful development of our national economy is partly determined by the quality of their work, by their close contacts with the working people in their spheres of responsibility, by their exemplary attitude and morale. Their work and their personal example must help to consolidate the conviction among all working people that the future belongs to Socialism, that the all-round strengthening of the GDR and consistent further pursuit of our peace policy calls for great daily achievements at every place of work.

That is why managers must have important political, professional and human qualities. We demand of them:

- a firm class standpoint which stamps all judgments and decisions;
- absolute party and state discipline which is aimed at carrying out decisions;
- close linking of thorough Marxist-Leninist knowledge with highly specialized training and the capacity to transform theoretical knowledge into practice in a creative way;
- a critical down-to-earth attitude and daring coupled with the ability to listen carefully to the suggestions and experience of the working people, to ask for their advice and link up closely with the innovators and pace-setters;
- the ability to take a broad view of social processes as a whole and to see and solve all tasks, far removed from any kind of departmentalism, in their complex inter-relations;
- to regard people and the all-round improvement of their personalities, development of their talents and satisfaction of their

growing material and intellectual needs at all times as the real aim of our policy, and the economy as an effective means to this end;

- to keep the working people thoroughly informed about the reasons for and the methods to be used in solving problems and to make this a component part of the work of guidance, and in no case to permit management to be done over the heads of the working people and groups;

- to be a model in personal life through cool decisiveness and personal modesty.

It is the duty of the party organizations to help managers on all levels to improve such qualities and characteristics still further and to see that neither petty-bourgeois thinking nor waste of resources and material are permitted, that a critical, frank atmosphere prevails and all workers are drawn into the solution of problems.

Management means leading people and creating the best conditions for them to work together productively and to do their work for society with the highest degree of effectiveness. Our party does not permit anyone to distort party decisions or to ignore the cares of daily life and personal problems of individuals. For us, humaneness is not merely rhetorical. Our party carries out its humanist task with and for all.

The leading party and state organs have the duty to respect the opinions of the working people, to answer their questions and constantly explain the inter-relations in our political and economic development. It is a question of creating all the conditions necessary to get the 1970 plan fulfilled and to explain to the workers in a convincing way the theoretical problems of economic development in the long-term plan period from 1971 to 1975.

Training and Further Training of Personnel

The Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the Central Committee devote careful attention to the growth and consolidation of the ranks of our party and to the training and further training of personnel.

It is a sign of the working people's firm confidence and of the

party's authority that in the first five months of this year 29,873 of the best people in industry and agriculture and in other strata of social life were admitted as candidates into the ranks of the party. It accords with the character of our party that among these 22,891 workers, mainly young members of Socialist work teams and collectives, received their candidates' cards.

As a result of the Central Committee's advanced training measures, about 3,200 senior cadres from the county and district committees, government organs, mass organizations and leading economic organs regularly acquaint themselves with the latest scientific knowledge. Tens of thousands of functionaries are included in the system of further training of the county and district committees of our party.

This generous and purposeful educational work also encourages the collective nature and stability of the secretariats of the town, district and municipal borough committees. The majority of members of the secretariats have long years of experience in party and mass work and a high degree of knowledge and ability, in order to find successful solutions, based on a wealth of ideas and expert knowledge, for the tasks of the coming years. At the present time 95.2 per cent of the district committee secretaries have completed technical college or university courses. More than half the members of secretariats have at least twenty years of party experience, and a third of the secretaries have also been steeled in many years of work in the party apparatus.

From the point of departure of the 12th session of the Central Committee, the Political Bureau recommended consultations on the "Basic Principles of Training and Further Training of Working People in Shaping the Developed Social System of Socialism in the GDR" in a large number of enterprises, combines and cooperatives.

In the discussions widespread agreement with the draft principles was expressed. More than 10,000 suggestions were made by working people for an effective system of training and further training measures in the enterprises. Readiness to acquire higher Marxist-Leninist and scientific-technical knowledge has increased. This is also proved by the new emulation pledges made by Socialist collectives and teams. Every fourth worker undertook a tangible pledge in the revised cultural and educational plans. Many thou-

sands are studying the textbook *Political Economy of Socialism and its Application in the GDR* and are gaining further knowledge from the works of Lenin.

The county and district committees supported the basic organizations and comrades in the government and trade union organs to conduct discussions and give critical advice. For example, in some enterprises and fields the principles were discussed in a too general way. Many further training plans are not sufficiently centred round world peak standards. They do not take prognostic and long-term developments sufficiently into account. Working women in some enterprises and combines rightly criticized insufficiencies in retail trade, in accommodation for children and in the provision of literature and teaching aids which makes life more difficult for them.

All party organs should exercise their influence to get training programs worked out and made more concrete in accordance with developments in the combines and enterprises. The content must derive from the requirements of the top world standards.

We regard training and further training for working people as an integral part of the movement to "Work, learn und live in a Socialist way". It must be planned with an eye to the future, managed in a scientific way and carried out rationally. The most up-to-date methods of imparting knowledge are a condition for good results.

Party Schooling, 1970–1971

Our integrated Marxist-Leninist ideology has become a material force in the German Democratic Republic. Apart from the great variety of tasks which will have to be dealt with in the period from 1971 to 1975, the real magnitude consists in the following: this will be a five-year period of development of the Socialist personality, the growth of Socialist collective groups, a five-year period of learning and perfecting the abilities of each individual.

None of the tasks facing our Socialist society as a whole, facing the many collective groups and individuals, would lead to success and to strengthening our Socialist state if we tackled them "free

of ideology", as the advocates of imperialism suggest to us again and again. As a Marxist-Leninist militant community of revolutionaries constantly working to increase the theoretical qualifications of its members and to give them the intellectual weapons they need to solve the new problems, we regard political-ideological work as the nucleus of the work of guidance of our party in shaping the developed social system of Socialism.

Under present conditions, in the stage of social development now beginning, it is especially important to step up the study of Marxism-Leninism, especially of philosophy and political economy of Socialism. It is a question of considerably intensifying the ideological education, the stamp of a firmly Socialist basic attitude in all party members and the entire population. Our ideology provides every citizen of our republic with the ability to make a clear judgment and enables him to take part in the shaping of the Socialist social system with all its relationships, it is an inexhaustible source of confidence and educates steadfast, courageous fighters for the cause of Socialism. But it should be plainly stated that such ideological training and educational work is useful only if it is inseparably linked up with daily life, starts from the standpoint of the problems we have to solve and enables the working people to solve them. In accordance with these considerations, the Political Bureau also dealt in the period under review with the results of the 1969-70 party schooling so far and decided upon the main tasks in the 1970-1971 party schooling.

The results of schooling in 1969-1970 so far show that Leninism as the Marxism of our epoch has taken firm root in our party. Hundreds of thousands of participants in circles, seminars and lectures have in the past months studied the theories of Leninism and its creative application by our party in the Socialist German state and arrived at important conclusions for the solution of manifold problems, especially for increasing the militant strength of the party. The Central Committee values very highly the work done by comrades in the circles and seminars. It is an honourable and worthwhile task to be a propagandist of the party, a teacher of the victorious theories of Marxism-Leninism. This deserves the attention and constant support of all committees, but also places great

demands on propagandists to steadily improve their qualifications, theoretical knowledge and their efforts to get closer to daily life.

The Political Bureau's decision on party schooling in 1970–1971 stresses that the study of Leninism is the basic demand and condition for further shaping the developed Socialist society. The decision outlines the main task in party schooling in 1970–1971, which is to explain convincingly and on a high theoretical level the strategy and tactics of the SED in all-round consolidation of the GDR, with their inter-relations, to raise the Marxist-Leninist standards of all members and candidates of the party, to broaden their ideological education and to enable them to carry out the party's decisions in the new stage of development in a creative and consistent way.

After the majority of party members have dealt in the past four years with the basic problems of the history of the German working class movement and in this connection with theoretical questions of historical materialism, the Political Bureau's decision now centres attention upon systematic study of the textbook *Political Economy of Socialism and its Application in the GDR* in party schooling. This book is intended, together with the study of the classics of Marxism-Leninism and the decisions of our party, to provide participants with the theoretical foundations for a rational application of the economic laws of Socialism, in order to awaken strong impulses to deliberate action and a march forward as a result of a deep understanding of the inter-relations and laws underlying social developments.

Party schooling must become even more a centre of militant argument about the ideological subversion of the imperialist class enemy and its various followers. The world-changing ideas of Leninism and its victories have forced the enemies of the working class to oppose Marxism-Leninism, which they so greatly fear, with ever-new attacks. They therefore unite an ever-increasing part of their forces and means in the ideological war against the theory and the material power of Marxism-Leninism. The class struggle in the ideological field has attained dimensions never before known. Party schooling will be all the more successful in its task of providing a school of ideological steeling for comrades and hundreds of thousands of non-party workers if circles and seminars are everywhere permeated by the creative, living spirit of our theories.

But in many places circles and seminars still suffer from the fact that discussion is too abstract, in others the problems are not clearly explained theoretically. We must reach the point where every circle, every seminar, is an experience which enriches all those attending.

The fact is that a number of district committees pay too little attention to working out the basic theoretical problems of our party's policy in the basic organizations. While in Oranienburg (Potsdam county), for example, more than 90 per cent of all circles and seminars took place regularly, only a little over 50 per cent took place in Gransee (in the same county). While in the districts of Liebenwerda, Herzberg, Jessen and Lützen (Cottbus county) about 80 per cent of comrades and non-party working people attended party schooling, only 55 per cent attended in Spremberg district.

The county committees should therefore give the district committees systematic help in improving party schooling, both in content and organization, and in getting rid of the differences in results, for which there is no justification whatever.

V. The GDR in the Struggle for Peace and Relaxation—Against West German Imperialism

Our party has continued the political and ideological struggle for peace and European security with determination and new initiatives, as the 12th session of the Central Committee demanded.

The 12th session made a thorough Marxist-Leninist analysis of the development of class forces in West Germany and the situation after the CDU/CSU had been ousted from government in the previous autumn and the Social Democrats took over for the first time since the West German Federal Republic was founded. It was quite clear to our party from the very beginning—and we made no bones about it—that this change in government was not a change of power. The imperialist firm changed several of its personnel, but

not its ownership. The economic and political power of big capital remained untouched.

Nothing changed in the reactionary, state monopoly system. The representatives of West German imperialist and revanchist policy, of militarism and neo-nazism continue to hold all the key positions in the economy, the state apparatus, the Bundeswehr (armed forces) and also in the decisive mass media. Those, whose strategic aim is to revise the results of the collapse of German fascism, change the European borders and make a third attempt to dominate Europe—their power was not only maintained, but even extended and consolidated.

The period since the 12th session of the Central Committee has confirmed:

1. The world-wide sharpening of the class struggle between Socialism and imperialism is expressed in Europe by West German imperialism continuing its revanchist, counter-revolutionary campaigns against the Socialist countries, particularly the GDR, although with different methods adapted to the change in the relation of forces in favour of Socialism.

What was called "rolling back" Socialism under Adenauer and Dulles and later became the policy of "liberation", is now pursued under the titles of "building bridges", "cooperation", "entering" or "European peace order," without anything having changed in the drive to change the status quo in Europe. It is quite obvious that West German policy is part and parcel of US imperialism's global strategy. This has also been made clear by the West German Federal Chancellor and chairman of the SPD, Willi Brandt, beginning with his first declaration of policy, his meeting with US President Nixon and up to his recent statement of principles on the Bundeswehr question in parliament. Again and again, Brandt, in chorus with the CDU/CSU, calls for the perpetuation of American military occupation in the Federal Republic.

2. As was declared at the Moscow Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties, imperialism is attempting to adapt itself to the new relation of forces and the demands of the scientific and technological revolution in order to ward off the sharper outbreak of its inherent contradictions, to extend its reactionary power and remobilize all its strength against Socialism. In the West German Federal

Republic the antagonistic contradictions, the inability of the CDU/CSU to carry the revanchist policy against Socialism to a successful conclusion and to master the sharper internal situation led to a change of government in Bonn. Particularly the last few months brought a wealth of evidence that the ruling forces in the Federal Republic are at present trying to implement the forming of their latter-day capitalist system, integrate the working class into the imperialist state and carry on the counter-revolutionary struggle against the Socialist countries with the help of Social Democracy.

3. The change of government in Bonn, in autumn 1969, has by no means lessened the dangers to peace and European security arising from West German imperialism.

As the rule of the arms trusts and big banks is unbroken, the roots of aggressive policies, i.e., the drive for the highest profit, for the expansion of power and influence, still operates. The continued concentration and centralization of the big trusts' power under the Social Democratic ministers, the quickly growing economic interlocking between US and West German monopolies, Washington's increasing influence on West German policy and the accelerated expansion of the military-industrial complex increase the expansionist drive of West German imperialism still further.

As Lenin said, this system inevitably causes violence and reaction along the whole line. State monopoly capitalism is the soil on which all conservative, arch-reactionary and neo-nazi forces grow.

At the 12th session, Comrade Walter Ulbricht warned that the danger of a swing to the right in West Germany had not passed and the last few months have proved how justified his warning was.

The alliance between the CDU/CSU, the revanchist organizations, the reactionary Bundeswehr leadership, Springers' mind manipulators and the neo-nazi Thadden party exists and is more active than ever. Through increased revanchist propaganda and by fanning national chauvinism, the CDU/CSU wants to mobilize that reservoir of rightwing extremist voters both ideologically and politically—as the big demonstration of revanchists on 30 May in Bonn, headed by Strauss, showed.

4. In the centre of Europe two states—the Socialist German Democratic Republic and the monopoly-capitalist Federal Republic—with completely contrary and irreconcilable social systems, face

each other. The class struggle flares up here so furiously because West German imperialism is particularly aggressive, because it wants to dominate Europe and is the principal ally of US imperialism in Europe and because it refuses to resign itself to the results of its defeat in the Second World War. It is clear that there can be neither an "inner-German" mixture, let alone reunification between these antagonistic systems and the states they represent. Possible and necessary, however, is peaceful coexistence between countries with different social systems.

In full accord with the Soviet Union and the other countries of the Warsaw Treaty, the party and government have taken new initiative for peace and European security, with the aim of creating prerequisites for peaceful coexistence between the GDR and the FRG through relations based on equality and international law. In line with the decisions of the 12th session of the Central Committee, the Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, Comrade Walter Ulbricht, on 17 December 1969 sent the President of the FRG, Dr. Heinemann, the draft of a treaty on the establishment of relations between the GDR and the FRG based on equality and international law.

The GDR draft treaty expresses the interests of the citizens in the German Democratic Republic for peace and security and also is in accord with the interests of the people of the Federal Republic, of whom the majority also wants a life in peace. It takes into account the interests of all European people who are equally threatened by the revanchist policy of the ruling forces in the Federal Republic. Our policy, as expressed in the draft treaty, is that the only relations possible between the GDR and the FRG are those of equality based on international law, as is usual between all sovereign states.

Again, in line with the decisions of the 12th session, Comrade Willi Stoph, Chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, took the initiative for talks with Chancellor Willy Brandt of the FRG in order to prepare the road for the conclusion of a treaty on relations based on equality and international law, on government head level. This is how the meetings in Erfurt and Kassel came about. At both encounters, all the world saw the positive policy for European peace being pursued by the GDR government and what an opportunity it was once again offering the Federal Republic of giving up the

shipwrecked policy of cold war, revenge and sole representation pretension and to make a contribution to European security.

The political conception worked out by the leadership of the party and government under the guidance of Comrade Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Central Committee, has proved to be absolutely correct. The Political Bureau proposes to the Central Committee that it fully approves the attitude of Comrade Willi Stoph, member of the Political Bureau and Chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, and of the delegation he headed, and that it thanks him for his consistent representation of the interests of the German Democratic Republic and of the peace interests of all European peoples.

We have always aimed to limit the room for manoeuvring of the imperialist enemy, extend our position in the class struggle and thereby also give progressive forces in West Germany the necessary help and backing. At the international press conference on 19 January this year, Comrade Walter Ulbricht declared: "It is our aim to divert the Federal Republic from the road of revanchism and war, and thus to help the West German people, above all its youth, to build a peaceful future."

It is the repeatedly and openly admitted aim of the enemy to penetrate into the GDR and other Socialist countries with subtle deceptive manoeuvres. The Socialist countries are jointly frustrating these plans. We have countered the counter-revolutionary intentions with vigilance and a constructive program which accords with the interests of the European peoples for peace and security.

In continual consultation and close cooperation with our allies, we always place the basic problems of European security laid down in the Warsaw Treaty documents in the foreground, particularly the recognition in international law of the borders as they arose after the Second World War, including the border between the GDR and the FRG, and recognition of the GDR under international law. And one thing is clear: no political event of any significance can take place in West Germany today without the question of relations with the GDR being a centre of discussion.

If one considers the main results of our policy in the last few months, one can say that the international position of the GDR has become stronger. No one in the world—not even those who refuse

to recognize the GDR under international law—can pass over the fact that the GDR is an independent, sovereign and flourishing state. Bonn's blackmailing sole representation pretension and the Hallstein doctrine were further repulsed. The enemy's intention to isolate the GDR has completely failed. The circumstances of the meeting in Kassel have again exposed to the world the character of the Bonn state and how wide-spread is neo-nazism there. It became obvious that the social systems in the GDR and the Federal Republic are irreconcilable.

As the main party of West German monopoly capital, the CDU/CSU approached the basic question of imperialist policy in its own way: It is running amok against European security and peaceful coexistence between the GDR and the FRG. In the Bundestag debate on 27 May 1970, Strauss, Barzel, Guttenberg and Kiesinger once more sharply formulated the policy of conquest they pursue against the peoples' interests in peace. "The CDU/CSU is not prepared"—as Guttenberg called out in his tirade against the GDR—"to respect realities, or even recognize them." It wishes to leave open the question of the European status quo in order to obtain "changes in the other part of Germany", in other words, in the GDR. According to Barzel, it considers Article 7 of the so-called Germany Treaty, which lays down extension of monopoly rule over the GDR, "binding". That is a policy of rabid anti-Communism and sharp enmity towards the GDR. That is the language of the cold war which calculates with a hot one to revise the results of the Second World War.

Currently, we are witnessing how the leaders of the CDU/CSU, hand in hand with the NDP and the revanchist organizations, are trying to fight and torpedo even the most modest beginnings of relaxation through unbridled chauvinism. Even just a verbal recognition of realities in Europe, even political tactics which attempt to adapt to realities, in view of the power relations, makes the revanchists around Strauss, Barzel and Guttenberg see red. It is no wonder that their main attack is against the recognition of the Socialist German Democratic Republic on the basis of international law. These forces, which are quite prepared for an open conflict, are not willing to accept the results of the Second World War at any price. They are now opposing the talks between the represent-

atives of the Bonn government and the USSR government, because they do not even agree to renunciation of the use of force being confirmed by treaty.

This widespread nationalist and revanchist attack conjures up great dangers for the people of the Federal Republic. And what is the Brandt/Scheel government doing? Is it opposing this extreme reaction with all its might? Unfortunately not. It is the refusal of recognition based on international law and the tactics of the Bonn government to try to place the GDR under its guardianship with the slogan of "inner-German relations", which encourages the extreme right to pour oil on the fire of its revanchist campaign. The Social Democratic ministers' continuous efforts to woo the CDU/CSU for joint policy have exactly the same effect. The present government's continuation of CDU/CSU policy but with different tactics, contradicts the interests of the people in the Federal Republic and strengthens the extreme reactionaries.

Ever since it came into office, the present West German government has claimed that it wants to pursue a new policy. Already at the 12th session we analyzed the role of this government in the service of the imperialist system at home and abroad. The last six months have confirmed our assessment. This is not changed by the fact that CDU/CSU and SPD ministers dispute in public on the methods and nuances of how to carry out the common imperialist aims.

It is well known that the West German Chancellor and his government have always tried to divert us from the basic question of relations based on international law with various slogans and apparent concessions to achieve some sort of so-called "special inner-German relations" with us.

This is nothing more than a continuation of Adenauer's policy of pretending to be the sole representative of the whole of Germany in a new vocabulary, in other words, that of revanchism and enmity towards the GDR. There can never exist an "inner" relationship between contradictory social systems and I strongly emphasize that this formula can never exist between the GDR and the FRG. It is quite absurd even to speculate on whether the Socialist GDR will bow to the imperialist Federal Republic's claim to guardianship over it.

At the 12th session, we said that we would judge the then new Brandt-Scheel government not so much by its words, but above all by its deeds.

The West German government tries to prove its verbal protestations of an alleged policy of non-discrimination and treating the GDR and its citizens as equals by "face-lifting" the sole representation pretension and recommending this as "gestures of goodwill." However, it has done nothing whatsoever to restrict the sole representation pretension. The whole system of laws, decrees, instructions, judgments in violation of international law continue to exist through which the GDR is discriminated against and placed under tutelage and whereby its citizens are to be placed under West German legal sovereignty.

– Neither of the two German states can represent the other in third countries or international organizations, Brandt declared. However, at the same time the federal government interferes in the GDR's international relations, as the latest examples of Bonn's intrigues against GDR membership of the ECE and the WHO show. The Bonn proposal to create an "inner-German office for the health service" which would take up the "necessary technical contacts between the GDR and the WHO" is nothing but an attempt to make the GDR a ward and "inner-German appendage" of Bonn and to deny its status as a subject of international law and an independent, sovereign state.

– The Bonn government gives itself credit for having rescinded the "Law on Limited Exemption from German Jurisdiction" passed on 29 July 1966 (the infamous Handcuff Law). The facts are, however, that in the official justification of this law, it is reaffirmed that GDR citizens can be prosecuted in the sense of the sole representation pretension under paragraph 3 of the West German Penal Code and paragraph 153 b of the code of criminal procedure.

Nor have the annexationist "Grey Plans" been declared invalid, or the "Research Advisory Council", that organ which works out the plans for annexation of the GDR, been dissolved. On the contrary, this council's assignment to do research on behalf of the state was extended, thereby underlining the potential declaration of war against the GDR. Official gazettes are still issued in which the

Federal Republic is declared competent for the whole territory once covered by the Hitler Reich within the frontiers of 1937.

So one can speak neither of "gestures of good-will" nor of a policy of "non-discrimination". One can talk as much as one likes about equality and non-discrimination—the Brandt government's deeds are still gross discrimination against the GDR and attempts at tutelage. They have aroused protests far beyond the borders of our republic. It is more urgent than ever to abolish the system of discrimination and juridical aggression and to create prerequisites for peaceful coexistence between the GDR and the FRG.

As we refused to allow ourselves to be diverted from our constructive principles and above all from the necessity of establishing relations based on international law between the GDR and the FRG at any phase of the talks, despite Brandt's words in contradiction to all deeds, his plans did not work out.

In the end, Brandt could no longer avoid the question about the aims of his policy, put several times. By his clear declaration in Kassel that the Paris Treaties with all their stipulations must remain valid, he made his strategic intentions obvious, i.e. to subordinate the GDR to NATO and US global strategy and to extend the West German state monopoly system to the GDR, in line with the Paris "Germany Treaty". We must see to it that this fact is clearly recognized in the Federal Republic, particularly among Social Democratic workers.

As far as the capitalist countries and the states of the third world are concerned, they are still being blackmailed by the Bonn thesis that they should not recognize the GDR, as this would disturb the establishment of so-called "inner-German relations". This form of the Hallstein doctrine not only contradicts the repeated proclamations heard recently from Bonn about equality between the GDR and the FRG, but is also an arrogant interference in the affairs of third countries. No wonder that this policy meets with growing opposition. It lies in the interests of every state to take up equal relations to the GDR on the basis of international law.

Dear Comrades,

The GDR is absolutely justified in putting the spotlight on the application of international law to relations between the GDR and

the West German Federal Republic. This is by no means a question of GDR prestige or a purely legal problem. Peace in Europe demands that every European country put its relations with all other countries on the foundations of international law. We must force West German imperialism—which refuses to recognize the territorial status quo in Europe—to give up its revanchist aims and to fully accept the results of the Second World War. It is, indeed, a question of peace or war.

Whoever rejects international law in the relations between states—and this applies particularly to relations of the FRG with the GDR—obviously pursues aims contrary to international law. If the government of the FRG stubbornly refuses to recognize the GDR and its borders under international law, one can draw no other conclusion but that it wants to keep its hands free for aggression against the GDR, its borders and its state and social order. They obviously believe that one day they will be able to pull down border posts without being called to account as an aggressor. Needless to say, such speculations are built on sand, but we do not underestimate the dangers arising for European security from this attitude.

Typical for the demagogy of the present Bonn government under Federal Chancellor Brandt is the continuous repetition of the nationalist slogan: "Unity of the Nation". This theory contradicts political and social realities and yet it is used to substantiate "inner-German relations." The bourgeois New York weekly "Nation" described the situation two weeks ago as follows: "Up to now Brandt has been pursuing a policy which clothes the old policy in friendlier language. His conception of the two German states in one nation says in a more refined manner what Kurt Georg Kiesinger could also put his signature to." (Retranslation from German)

In order to avoid fulfilling the Potsdam Agreement and to restore the old relations of power and ownership, the reactionary forces in West Germany, allied with US imperialism, destroyed the unity of Germany after 1945 and perpetuated the division by means of the Paris Treaties. The representatives of the state whose rulers, together with the USA, split Germany and themselves made the GDR into foreign territory—they of all people, are today operating

with the slogan of a so-called "unity of the nation". And when they sanctimoniously refer to the GDR Constitution, then it is time for us to give them some instruction in reading. Our Constitution says quite clearly that there can only be unity on the basis of democracy and Socialism.

Even when the Germans still lived in an enclosed territory, they were divided by the irreconcilable class contradictions between proletariat and bourgeoisie. There has never been unity between the ruling class and the workers. The bourgeoisie exploited the workers, shot them down and treated them as social outcasts. The German workers have never regarded the capitalists as their brothers, but always as their enemies. Their brothers were always their class comrades in other countries.

Today, this irreconcilable class contradiction has taken on a state form through the Socialist GDR and the monopoly-capitalist Federal Republic. Seen from a historical viewpoint, the rise of the nations was part of the growth of bourgeoisie society. The bourgeoisie acted in the interests of the nation only as long as it was a progressive force. Imperialism is the negation of all national interests, because it divides nations, does not hesitate to drown the national liberation movements in blood and has become the obstacle to all social progress. Only the revolutionary movements of our time represent national interests: Socialism, the revolutionary working-class movement and the national liberation movement.

The current situation is this: the GDR is the Socialist German nation-state, because it is here that the lessons of German history were drawn, the basic stipulations of the Potsdam Agreement persistently fulfilled, it is here where the working people rule and are striding down the road to Socialism in free self-determination.

The Federal Republic, however, is a monopoly capitalist NATO state, in which the basic stipulations of the Potsdam Agreement have not been fulfilled up to the present day, in which monopoly capital was able to return to power, militarism was restored and undermines the whole of society, where revanchism to revise the results of the Second World War and change the status quo in Europe has been raised to state doctrine and those forces are in power which stand fully behind the aggressive campaigns and

aims of US global strategy and are indifferent to the West German population's need for peace.

When Herr Brandt comes with his 20-point program which stubbornly rejects the decisive issue—the establishment of relations between the GDR and the FRG based on international law, he is, in fact, demanding that the GDR place itself under the tutelage of West German imperialism. It is the unserious demand of an unserious policy.

Comrades,

One cannot speak about Kassel without recalling the neonazi attacks and serious incidents which the whole world had to take note of. They showed that revanchism and neo-nazism continue to spread, thanks to state encouragement and because they are an integral part of the imperialist system in West Germany. The neo-nazis are not working alone, but jointly with the CDU/CSU and with the benevolent tolerance of the government. On the other hand, the warm reception given the GDR delegation by thousands of progressive citizens in the Federal Republic—Communists, trade unionists, Social Democrats and many young people—plus the growing circles among the West German population who favour recognition of the GDR, show that an increasing number of working people in West Germany understand that the FRG's policy of hostility towards the GDR must rebound upon itself, while the GDR's peace policy also serves the vital interests of the working people in the Federal Republic.

People of the GDR are convinced that the time will come when the conservative and reactionary forces still preventing relations between the GDR and the FRG based on equality and international law will be repulsed. The time will come when the GDR and the FRG will become members of the United Nations and diplomatic relations between the two German states will be established.

Dear Comrades,

In connection with the struggle between Socialism and imperialism on German soil, just a word about the West German Social Democratic Party Congress held in Saarbrücken in mid-May where the

SPD leadership—who are also responsible for government policy in Bonn—propounded their long-term conceptions. Noteworthy is that some things were expressed there more openly and directly than one finds in official government statements. This Congress clearly illustrated the present function of the SPD leadership as a pillar of the imperialist system.

The reason for their pro-imperialist policy lies in the connection between imperialist and opportunism. How very topical are Lenin's words at the Comintern session 50 years ago:

"Practice has shown that the opportunists inside the working-class movement are better defenders of the bourgeoisie than the bourgeoisie themselves. If they did not hold the leadership of the workers in their hands the bourgeoisie would not be able to assert itself."

At their 1970 Congress, the SPD ministers left no doubts that their foreign policy—despite lip-service to peace—amounts to the continuation of West German revanchism. Brandt described West Germany's integration into NATO as "the exclamation mark of international law which keeps the German question pending" and thus made clear once more that the principle of his foreign policy is to keep all doors open for the expansion of the sphere of power of West German imperialism.

It was Brandt who propagated a Social Democratic variant to the attempts to overcome the borders. In nationalistic manner, the right-wing Social Democratic leaders spoke of the necessity of a "German challenge" and exposed themselves as representatives of West German imperialism's demand for domination over Europe. The SPD Party Congress reaffirmed the indissoluble links between Bonn's "eastern policy" and NATO, proclaimed the aim of "opening up" the GDR to the west and confirmed Helmut Schmidt's military and armament conceptions.

Contrary to all talk about an "ideology-free" policy with which they try to dupe people in the spirit of the convergence theory, Brandt called for a long-term plan for an ideological attack on Socialism. He recommended the ideas of Social Democracy to the monopoly capitalists as a suitable weapon and thus confirmed that the sharpening class struggle between Socialism and im-

perialism is expressed above all in an intensification of the ideological struggle.

Without hesitation, the Social Democratic leaders rejected the protest of young delegates against Washington's mass murders in South East Asia, although they could not talk enough about humane actions, freedom and self-determination.

At the Congress, the SPD leaders spoke a lot about "extending social democracy" in the Federal Republic. However, the home policy they proclaimed, their declaration for the imperialist relations of power and ownership, their orientation on the further acceleration of capitalist concentration and the "increase in efficiency" of the large trusts is neither social nor democratic. And incidentally, Herr Schiller—he was educated in the nazi party and absorbed its ideology—admitted at the Congress, in the spirit of the employers' associations, that he considered the demand by many trade unions, Social Democrats and large numbers of young workers for the socialization of the trusts, to be no longer timely and slandered it as a "corpse". In the corridors and in the party executive, Helmut Schmidt declared provocatively in the spirit of his Hitler officers, that one must "energetically oppose the whole Socialism phraseology". The home policy that the SPD leaders proclaim is nothing more than a Social Democratic tinted version of how to make the imperialist system capable of accepting the challenge of Socialism and how to mobilize all forces in the struggle to dominate Western Europe and against the Socialist community of states.

However, the SPD Congress in Saarbrücken also showed that there are Social Democratic forces which are guided by the West German working people's interest in peace and democracy and who try—although still afflicted with many illusions, reservations and ideological unclarity,—to win the Social Democratic Party for struggle for democratic progress in West Germany. The Social Democratic leaders will not be able to appease them and move them to accept their course forever. On the contrary, it has become obvious that since the SPD leaders have taken over government for the West German monopoly capitalists, the contradictions of the imperialist system have immediately affected the SPD and are being fought out there, too.

Our Communist comrades in the Federal Republic are actively partaking in the daily struggle of the working people in West Germany. As the recently published documents of the German Communist Party (DKP) show, they give a clear and realistic lead on the urgent basic democratic changes now on the agenda in the Federal Republic, if a policy of peace and democratic progress is to be fought through in bitter class struggle.

VI. To Strengthen the Defence Potential

In the words of Lenin, the value of any revolution depends on its ability to defend itself. In accordance with Lenin's advice the citizens of the GDR regard the defence of their Socialist fatherland and of the community of Socialist states as an inseparable part of their efforts to strengthen the German Democratic Republic in every field.

It was in this sense that the Political Bureau devoted much attention to raising the defence readiness of the GDR in the period covered by this report.

The Minister of National Defence, Comrade General of the Army Hoffmann, reported on problems relating to the military exercises and courses during 1969 and to the aggressive military policy of the West German government and its War Minister Schmidt. The Political Bureau reviewed this report and adopted measures to further improve the party's leadership in the system of national defence, to develop the fighting strength of the armed forces, and deepen the cooperation and comradeship-in-arms among the allied Socialist armies within the framework of the Warsaw Treaty.

The efforts and activities of the armed forces of our republic to strengthen the defence potential of our Socialist state are part of the historic achievement of the working class and the working people of the German Democratic Republic. They have met with increasing appreciation among the people of our republic for the indispensable requirements of Socialist national defence. Especially among the youth new progress was made in Socialist defence

education thanks to the close cooperation among all social organizations, state authorities and the armed forces.

The guideline for the future political and ideological work of the party bodies within the armed forces was set forth at the National People's Army party activists' meeting in January 1970, at which Comrade Erich Honecker gave an important speech on the importance of the 12th session of the Central Committee, and on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Ministry of State Security when the work of the security organs as a dependable instrument of Socialist state power was publicly praised.

Lenin's 100th birthday and the 25th anniversary of liberation from fascism meant a stimulus and a pledge for the comrades to stand even the most stringent tests of class battle—to guarantee the safeguarding of peace and Socialism, to steel themselves ideologically, always to be ready to defend their country, faithful to the task laid upon them by the party and the government.

The emulation in honour of Lenin's birthday resulted in outstanding achievements in the efforts to reach top standards, which, in the armed forces, are measured by their skill in handling their weapons, by how the enemy's psychological warfare is frustrated, by their mastery of military science and by the speed with which full combat readiness is established. A firm class consciousness is the basis of outstanding and measurable results in increasing the fighting strength and consolidating public order and security, and it is the basis of the GDR people's readiness to strengthen and reliably protect Socialism side by side with the Soviet Union.

So the successes of the comrades in the armed forces in strengthening our GDR are in no way inferior to the pioneering achievements of the working people in their Socialist emulation.

One example of this is the precise carrying out of an exercise in Thuringia. This exercise confronted the armed forces with qualitatively new demands, because it examined not only their own combat readiness but was also a test of the fitness of all elements of national defence. For the first time, the combat and mobilization readiness and the cooperation of all armed forces with each other and with the party and state organs were tested on a county-level at one time.

The performance of the leading party and state organs, the

troops and staffs taking part, the workers' militia and the staffs of territorial and civil defence authorities was precise, well-considered and prompt, thus proving their ability to get a complicated military situation in hand. Special tribute must be paid to the readiness of workers in the enterprises to compensate with their own additional efforts for losses caused by the mobilization of the workers' militia.

Another severe test of comrades in the armed forces were the complicated weather conditions in winter and spring. Together with the comrades of the Soviet Army they were the first to help and bring under control disastrous situations, which endangered production, transport, supply and often the very lives of the citizens.

Firmly allied to the Soviet Union and on the basis of the Warsaw Treaty, the Socialist countries of Europe were able to repulse all attacks of world imperialism, especially West German imperialism, on their unity, so as to support with the full weight of Socialism the front of all those who are fighting for security and peace.

We do not forget for a moment that any measure to increase the defence readiness of the German Democratic Republic is also a contribution to strengthening the Warsaw Treaty organization.

We are strengthening our armed forces and paying increasing attention to the requirements of national defence in all walks of social life, in order to frustrate especially the unvaryingly aggressive plans of the West German generals' camarilla. We will not tolerate the rapacious militarist wolves hiding their aggressive designs behind the smoke-screen of White Books full of phrases on peace. If peace is to be in good hands, the minds must think in a Socialist way, and the eyes must be vigilant.

We should like the party branches to recognize the unity of politics, economies, ideology and national defence in all their activities and to give the necessary attention to questions of military policy.

VII. Further Extension of International Relations

Lenin's 100th Birthday Marked by the Offensive of Marxism-Leninism

The 100th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin was the most important international event in the period covered by this report. Following the International Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties in June last year it was a new high point in the activities of the world communist movement and of all progressive and peace-loving forces throughout the world.

In many countries throughout the world Lenin commemorations took on the nature of broad mass movements. The revolutionary working-class movement and their allies honoured Lenin by spreading his ideas, explaining them to the people and defending Leninism against the slanderous distortions of its enemies. The working people of the Soviet Union and other countries of the Socialist community of states celebrated the Lenin anniversary with new achievements in the construction of Socialism and Communism, for the strengthening of the main force of the world revolutionary movement. In the imperialist countries the Lenin anniversary was marked by the struggle against state monopoly dictatorship, the mobilization of broad masses for democracy and social progress, against the imperialist policy of aggression and wars of oppression. For the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America Lenin has become the symbol of their struggle for national and social liberation. All this went to substantiate convincingly the statement in the Lenin document of the June 1969 meeting which states that "the name of Lenin has become the symbol of the victory of Great October, the symbol of the greatest revolutionary transformations which have basically changed the social features of the world and testified to mankind's turning towards Socialism and Communism".

The 100th birthday of Lenin, the genius who carried on the revolutionary teachings of Marx and Engels, touched off a worldwide offensive of Marxism-Leninism so broad and so profound as had never before been known. This movement is characterized especially by the fact that Leninism was confirmed to be the

Marxism of our epoch. The importance of Lenin's work, which is of universal current interest and points out the way into the future, was confirmed at hundreds of meetings, conferences and scientific sessions throughout the world. The imperialist system is torn by ever deeper contradictions; bourgeois ideologies and the entire intellectual and moral life of capitalism are deadlocked in an insoluble crisis; and anti-Communism in all its varieties, including social democratism, is approaching open bankruptcy, whereas the viability and invincibility of Leninism as the science of solving the main tasks of mankind in the epoch of the transition from capitalism to Socialism becomes manifest. The massive attempt of the enemy to obscure the universal importance and validity of Leninism with the help of all renegades from the Trotskyites to Mao, Garaudy, Fischer and Marek, suffered a world-wide fiasco.

The international climax of the Lenin anniversary was the joint celebration of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic on 22 April in Moscow. In his speech, important both theoretically and politically, Comrade Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, struck the balance of the victory of Leninism which has culminated in the revolutionary renewal of a substantial portion of human society in the spirit of Socialism. At this meeting, leading representatives of more than 100 Communist and workers' parties, many Socialist parties, national democratic parties and movements renewed their pledge of faith to Lenin and Leninism, among them the delegation of our party's Central Committee headed by Comrade Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of State of the GDR. Other members of the delegation were Comrade Willi Stoph, member of the Political Bureau and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the GDR, Comrade Erich Honecker, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee, Comrade Günter Mittag, member of the political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee, Comrade Hermann Axen, candidate member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee, and Comrade Werner Krolkowski, member of the Central Committee and First Secretary of the Dresden County Committee.

At this festive meeting, Comrade Walter Ulbricht expressed the thoughts and feelings of our entire party when he said that "we are grateful to the CPSU and the Soviet government that they have made it possible, through their wise and far-sighted Leninist policy, for the working people of our country to put the prognosis formulated by Marx and Engels in the Communist Manifesto into practice in the German Democratic Republic. In the course of developing the social system of Socialism in our country we have come to appreciate the comprehensive preparatory work done by Lenin and the CPSU, who have elaborated the principles of the decisive problems of social development for the benefit of the Communist and workers' parties throughout the world."

The Lenin anniversary was also a manifestation of the increasing unity and cooperation of all parts of the world revolutionary movement in the spirit of Leninist ideas. In Moscow the fraternal parties expressed their profound friendship with the CPSU and the international Communist movement. Representatives of many other democratic and anti-imperialist parties and movements from Asian and African countries paid tribute to the pioneering role of Lenin and the first Socialist state with regard to the liberation of their own peoples from colonial oppression and exploitation, a role that is today more evident than ever before.

The preparation and organization of the activities to mark Lenin's 100th birthday were characterized by increasing activities of the Communist and working-class parties to put into practice their common general line of struggle against imperialism, which they adopted at their international conference in Moscow one year ago. Fraternal parties in the Socialist countries made new efforts to bring into full play the advantages of the Socialist system in mastering the scientific and technological revolution, struggling for maximum labour productivity and effectiveness in the national economy. The party and government leaderships of the Warsaw Treaty countries and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance discussed problems of strengthening their alliance, developed an offensive policy in the struggle for peace and security, and increased their fraternal support for the liberation struggle of the peoples of Indochina and their solidarity with the Arab peoples.

In the developed capitalist countries Communists mobilized new

social forces for the struggle against state monopoly dictatorship. In Italy, France, the United States, Belgium, Spain, Japan and other countries the working class and other working people rose in massive strikes and other activities of the anti-imperialist forces against the power of the monopolies. The bourgeois hopes to weaken the world Communist movement and break the influence of fraternal parties in the capitalist countries by means of anti-Communism, bourgeois nationalism and revisionism were an utter failure.

The most recent massive actions against the imperialist policy of oppression and aggression have fully proved the correctness of the assessment of the dialectics of international class struggle, and the character of imperialist policy as contained in the main document of the international conference.

Imperialism seeks to counter the joint actions of the revolutionary forces, the offensive of Marxism-Leninism, by means of counter-revolutionary counter-attacks and aggressive actions in many parts of the world.

The war of annihilation against the heroic South Vietnamese people is being continued under the Nixon administration, and the criminal bombing of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is being resumed again as a means of political and military blackmail. In Laos they are pursuing their morderous campaign against the people of that country. The US government has attacked Cambodia insidiously and brutally, causing thousands of innocent men, women and children to be murdered and fields and villages to be burned to the ground. This has led to an extension of the war in South-East Asia and increased the danger of the situation extremely.

These crimes of US imperialism have met with growing resistance not only among the world public but even inside the United States where they have caused the biggest mass movements up to now. It is no accident that even American newspapers are forced to admit that "the country is split from top to bottom". The ruling circles of the USA try to cope with the difficult situation in their fashion and to stop the protest movement. The close connection between the gangsterism in foreign policy and gangsterism in domestic policy has been clearly revealed. The victims of the bullets

fired by the National Guard are proof of the unscrupulous infamy and of the sharpening crisis of the imperialist system.

Along with the US aggression in Indochina Israel's continued aggression against the Arab countries, aided and abetted by the USA and West Germany, is causing increasing alarm. The barbarous air raids and shelling of Arab towns and villages on the part of the Israeli aggressors again underline the seriousness of the situation in this area. The expansion of the imperialist wars in the Middle and Far East has increased the danger to world peace.

On the European continent, too, imperialism is making new efforts to put its criminal policy into practice. For example, the Rome meeting of the NATO Council at the end of May had the aim of putting all manner of obstacles in the way of the relaxation of European tension. In this connection West German imperialism and the Bonn government as the most willing partners supporting this policy in Europe are firmly integrated in the US global strategy. This was clearly demonstrated by Brandt's recent trip to the USA, by the agreement of the two governments in the struggle against Socialism, and by direct or indirect West German support for the criminal policy of the Nixon administration.

It is especially in view of the increasing aggressiveness of imperialism that the necessity and significance of new united and massive anti-imperialist movements is growing. This was taken into account by the representatives of the European brother parties when they jointly deliberated, in January 1970, about the preparation of a people's congress for peace and security in Europe. The delegates of Communist and workers' parties of capitalist European countries met in Paris in mid-May to study the dangerous situation in South-East Asia after the expansion of the US aggression to Cambodia. This meeting called on all democratic and peace-loving forces to increase their actions against the crimes of US imperialism.

Regrettably, the anti-Soviet, big power chauvinist group around Mao Tse-tung still resist joint actions; its destructive attitude favours and facilitates the implementation of the aggressive plans of imperialism.

Growing International Authority of the GDR

In the period covered by this report the working people of the GDR along with the peoples of the Soviet Union and other fraternal Socialist countries and all peace-loving mankind celebrated the 25th anniversary of the liberation from Hitler fascism by the glorious Soviet army. We have commemorated the enormous efforts and sacrifices of the peoples of the Soviet Union, which bore the main brunt of the fight against fascism and played the key role in this fight, and we have commemorated the struggle of the other peoples of the anti-Hitler coalition and of the heroes of the anti-fascist resistance.

It is with satisfaction that mankind can state today that the GDR is a state which has fulfilled the aims of the anti-Hitler coalition without reservation and which is a reliable ally in the struggle for the safeguarding of peace and social progress. This fact is reflected in the growing international authority of the GDR.

In the period covered by this report the GDR established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Somalia, the Central African Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria and the Republic of the Maldives; and there was an agreement on the exchange of official trade representations between the GDR and Kuwait. There is no doubt that more states will follow these examples. The attempts of the West German Federal Republic and other NATO states to isolate the GDR in international affairs and prevent it from taking an equal part in all fields of international cooperation are doomed to failure. At present the GDR maintains diplomatic relations with 25 countries, and other relations on governmental level with another 16 countries. These countries comprise 60 per cent of the world's population.

The extension of relations between the GDR and the Afro-Asian countries was also expressed in long-term agreements and contracts on economic and scientific and technical cooperation and in an increasing exchange of delegations.

In the period covered by the report the GDR's relations with West European states have also developed, which is shown by the conclusions of long-term trade agreements with France, Britain

and Italy and in the establishment of the economic bureau of French industry and of the representation of the Austrian "Bundeskammer der Gewerblichen Wirtschaft" in the capital of the GDR. Another important event was the visit of a GDR delegation in France. The delegation headed by Comrade Dr. Mittag had talks with important representatives of the French economy.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the liberation from fascism the Permanent International Committee for the Recognition of the GDR sponsored an international fighting week for the recognition of the GDR which was supported by the World Council of Peace, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the International Union of Students, and the Women's International Democratic Federation and observed in 45 countries.

With its large-scale and manifold activities this fighting week was a major political and social event in many countries. More and more people in all countries take up the active and organized struggle for the establishment of relations with the GDR based on equality and international law. During the international fighting week rallies demanding the recognition of the GDR were held in towns and enterprises of 45 countries. Congresses of the national friendship societies were held in Italy, France, Finland, Chile and Ceylon. Members and entire parliamentary groups of the Italian, Swedish, French, British and Indian parliaments intervened for the recognition of the GDR under international law. Hundreds of thousands of citizens in 20 non-Socialist countries voted for the recognition of our German peace state with their signatures, and these activities are to be continued.

Consolidation of the Community of Socialist States

The constant consolidation of the community of Socialist states and the development of their political, economic and military alliance is the fundamental condition for the preservation and consolidation of peace. This fact was duly recognized and appreciated on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Warsaw Treaty. Together with the Soviet Union and the other

Socialist states of the Warsaw Treaty the GDR has contributed to the reliable protection of the achievements of Socialism, to the preservation of peace in Europe and to the repulsion of all attacks of aggressive imperialist forces on the security of the peoples and countries.

The foreign policy of the GDR party and state leadership in the period covered by this report was concentrated on developing and deepening cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other states of the Socialist camp. This was the purpose of the top-level meetings and talks held in this period with representatives of the fraternal parties and governments of the USSR, the Polish People's Republic, Czechoslovakia, and the Hungarian People's Republic.

Special significance must be attributed to the repeated meetings of Comrade Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party and Chairman of the Council of State of the GDR, and other leading party and government representatives of the GDR with Comrade Leonid I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, and other leading personalities of the CPSU and Soviet government. Current questions of international policy and increased mutual cooperation were in the centre of these talks, which confirmed the full agreement of the opinions of the two parties and governments.

The visit of Comrades Janos Kadar, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, and Jeno Fock, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and Chairman of the Hungarian Revolutionary Workers' and Farmers' Government, to the GDR and the participation of a GDR party and government delegation headed by Comrade Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the Council of State of the GDR, in the Budapest celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of Hungary's liberation from fascism served to strengthen the cooperation between the two parties and government.

A party and government delegation headed by Comrade Albert Norden, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee, took part in the celebration to mark the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Army. On

this occasion the delegation reaffirmed our unreserved support of the policy of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. It welcomed the conclusion of the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Czechoslovakia and the USSR as an important factor for the continued consolidation of the unity of the Socialist community of states and for the safeguarding of peace in Europe.

Guided by the principles and aims of its peace policy, the GDR has taken a consistent stand for the development of a system of collective security in Europe on the basis of the recognition of the status quo and the European borders without reservation.

An active and constructive spirit has also been characteristic of the GDR's activities in the last few months to bring about the speedy convocation of an all-European security conference, with all European countries taking an active part and with no prior conditions for its coming into being.

The numerous consultations of the GDR with representatives of friendly Socialist countries in the period covered by the report again showed the full agreement of their views on questions of safeguarding European security and organizing a European security conference. Representatives of the GDR had talks in the capitals of many West and North European countries, explaining the attitude of the GDR towards the question of European security and the convocation of a security conference, which met with interest and understanding among official representatives of those countries. Today we can state with justification that the idea of convening a European security conference and the concrete proposals of the Prague conference of foreign ministers have proved timely and realistic.

At the same time it has become apparent, however, that the opponents of an all-European security conference, notably the United States and West Germany, have considerably increased their efforts to prevent or at least postpone such a conference. They are still insisting on prior conditions for the convocation of the conference and try to complicate its agenda and discredit the very idea of a conference.

The movement for the organization of a European peoples' congress has also got a new impetus in the period covered by the

report. The GDR Committee for European Security set up in Berlin on 24 March 1970 includes 30 well known representatives of all walks of social life and has made it its aim to actively support the preparation of this peoples' congress.

Many Discussions at Party Level

In the development of its international relations with the Communist and workers' parties as well as revolutionary-democratic, anti-imperialist parties and movements the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany is guided by the general line of the struggle against imperialism, for peace, European security and Socialism agreed upon at the Moscow Conference.

Main emphasis was again laid on the alliance with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the continuation of the useful and fruitful exchange of experience with Lenin's party in all spheres of social development. The meeting of leading representatives of the USSR and the GDR on 15 May 1970 in Moscow was of special importance. On the Soviet side the following personalities took part in the negotiations: Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Nikolai Podgorny, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and Alexey Kosygin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Konstantin Katushev, the member of the Central Committee of the CPSU Andrey Gromyko, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, and the member of the Central Committee of the CPSU Pyotr Abrassimov, ambassador of the USSR in the GDR. The GDR was represented by: Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party and Chairman of the GDR Council of State, the members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party Willi Stoph, Chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, and Erich Honecker, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party, the member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party Otto Winzer, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the GDR, and Horst Bittner, ambassador of the GDR in the USSR.

During the talks opinions were exchanged on a number of subjects pertaining to the extension and deepening of all-round cooperation between the Soviet Union and the GDR as well as to current international problems, including the safeguarding of European security. The talks confirmed the full agreement between the two parties and governments.

A delegation of the German Soviet Friendship Society, headed by Comrade Erich Mückenberger, member of the Political Bureau and First Secretary of the County Committee of the Socialist Unity Party in Frankfurt/Oder, stayed in the Soviet Union to take part in the ceremonies marking the 25th anniversary of the victory over Hitlerite fascism.

In March a delegation of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, headed by Comrade Dr. Gustav Husak, First Secretary of the Central Committee, paid a visit to the Leipzig Spring Fair at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party. The visit of the Czechoslovak comrades to Leipzig as well as the talks with Comrade Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Germany and Chairman of the GDR Council of State, confirmed anew the close alliance between the two parties and peoples.

A delegation of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, headed by Comrade Werner Lamberz, Secretary of the Central Committee, took part in a meeting of Communist and workers' parties of Socialist countries on February 24 and 25, 1970 in Sofia. The participants in this meeting exchanged experience on ideological and propagandistic work, had an exchange of opinions on current problems of the construction of Socialism and Communism and informed each other on the preparation for the 100th birthday of V. I. Lenin in their countries.

Comrade Gerhard Grüneberg, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, headed a delegation of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party which at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party stayed in the People's Republic of Bulgaria and became acquainted with the successes

achieved by the Bulgarian Communist Party in increasing agricultural production.

In January Comrade Paul Verner, member of the Political Bureau and First Secretary of the County Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Berlin, heading a delegation of the Berlin party organization and of the Municipal Council of Berlin, capital of the GDR, participated in the ceremonies marking the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Warsaw.

At the invitation of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party Comrade Günter Mittag, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee, stayed in Budapest from 18 to 21 March 1970. This visit centered on an exchange of experience on problems of policy of the two parties, especially in the shaping of the economic systems in the GDR and in the Hungarian People's Republic, as well as on current problems of economic cooperation between the two countries.

In the last few months our party made many initiatives to deepen relations with the fraternal parties of the developed capitalist countries. A delegation, headed by Comrade Hermann Axen, candidate of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee, were guests at the 19th Congress of the French Communist Party. The decisions of this Congress constitute a remarkable contribution by our French fraternal party to the further implementation and definition of the joint Marxist-Leninist strategy and tactics, a creative application of the common line of the International Conference in the struggle against the state monopoly system in France.

A delegation, headed by Comrade Paul Fröhlich, member of the Political Bureau and First Secretary of the Leipzig County Committee of the Socialist Unity Party, participated in the 12th Congress of the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus (AKEL).

Comrade Alois Pisnik, member of the Central Committee and First Secretary of the County Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Magdeburg, represented our party at the 20th Congress of the Luxemburg Communist Party. Comrade Friedrich Ebert, member of the Political Bureau, headed a delegation of the Central Committee at the 21st Extraordinary Congress of the Communist Party of Austria.

A delegation of the Central Committee, including the members of the Political Bureau Comrade Kurt Hager and Comrade Paul Verner conveyed greetings of solidarity from our party to the Second Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin. The Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin, where an "action program for peace, democracy and social progress" was adopted, testified to the growing fighting power of the Marxist-Leninist party in the independent political entity of West Berlin.

In the last few months, many delegations from fraternal parties stayed in the GDR to exchange experience. Thus several talks were held between delegations of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, headed by Comrade Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary, and other members of the Political Bureau with delegations of the party executive committee of the German Communist Party, headed by its chairman Comrade Kurt Bachmann. In a comradely spirit and in full unanimity current political problems and questions of further fraternal cooperation between the two parties were discussed.

A delegation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belgium, headed by the Deputy Chairman of the party Comrade Jef Turf, studied questions of our youth policy. A delegation of the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party, headed by Comrade Paolo Bufalini, member of the National Executive Committee and of the Bureau of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party, had talks with a delegation of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party. A delegation of our party took part in an international Lenin Seminar held by the Communist Party of Norway.

In the period covered by the report our party also strengthened its relations with the Arab Communist and national-democratic parties.

In December 1969 Comrade Albert Norden, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, had talks with Major-General Gaafar Mohamed El Nimeri, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Sudan, during which ideological and practical questions of extending the friendly relations between our two countries and peoples were discussed.

In the UAR Comrade Norden met President Gamal Abdel Nasser, Chairman of the High Executive Committee of the Central Committee of the ASU and Dia Eddin Daoud, member of the High Executive Committee of the ASU and discussed problems of closer cooperation between the two parties and states.

A delegation of the Central Committee of the Syrian Communist Party studied problems of party and trade union work in industrial plants in our republic. Comradely talks were conducted with leading comrades of the Iraqi Communist Party, the Lebanese Communist Party and the Sudanese Communist Party. From Syria a study delegation of the Arab Socialist Baath Party came to our republic.

The exchange of delegations and experience with the Latin American fraternal parties was intensively continued in the period covered by the report. The secretaries general and other members of the executive committees of the Peruvian Communist Party, the Brazilian Communist Party, the Communist Party of Ecuador, the Communist Party of Venezuela, the Communist Party of Argentina, the Communist Party of Costa Rica, the Party of the People of Panama and the Progressive People's Party of Guayana stayed in our republic to discuss current questions of the joint anti-imperialist struggle and to exchange information and experience with leading comrades of our party. A delegation of the Communist Party of Columbia studied the experiences of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany in political mass activities. A delegation of experts of the Communist Party of Cuba studied experiences gathered by the Socialist Unity Party in agricultural policy.

From 22 to 24 May 1970 the 9th Congress of the German-Soviet Friendship Society was held in Berlin. It was attended by a delegation of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party, headed by Comrade Erich Honecker, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee.

The Congress, which was marked by the 100th anniversary of V. I. Lenin's birth and the 25th anniversary of the liberation from Hitlerite fascism, showed convincingly that German-Soviet friendship has become a matter of heart, of firm conviction and active participation in the permanent strengthening of our fraternal alliance with the Soviet Union.

The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party welcomes the fact that in the documents of the Congress and in the contributions of the delegates top priority is given to political and ideological work as the main task of the society. The shaping of the developed social system of Socialism in the GDR and the mastering of the scientific and technological revolution will render necessary the ever closer and comprehensive cooperation with the Soviet Union, the amalgamation of the intellectual and material potential of both the GDR and the USSR.

Dear Comrades,

When Karl Liebknecht declared at the Foundation Congress of the Communist Party of Germany at the turn of the years 1918–1919 that humanity was confronted by the alternative of either advancing to Socialism or relapsing into barbarity then we can see today how an ever increasing number of peoples has taken the road to Socialism whereas at the same time some states, with the leading and most aggressive amongst the imperialist countries, the USA, in the forefront, are slipping back into barbarity. Barbarity which has grown out of what Lenin also called decaying capitalism.

Indeed, barbarity and decay at the same time—symbolized by a murdering soldiery addicted to narcotic drugs raging in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, just as by corrupted politicians of extreme reaction who have students and Negroes shot at in their own country.

The USA of today gives us a shockingly concrete lesson in what general crisis of capitalism means: blind to everything that does not show profit, deaf to everything which is culture—that is how this giant in material goods is stumbling around the world of 1970 fully equipped with technical armaments and bashing at everything called human in its own state and in foreign countries.

The economic basis of the USA is full of cracks into which one and three quarter million workers who were still fully employed in December 1969 were plunged into unemployment during the first half of this year alone and thousands of millions of dollars of savings of the lower middle class have disappeared as a result of slumps in stock prices or bankruptcy.

Indeed, the president of this country still only needs to press a

button and 500 planes devastate giant areas of foreign country and transform them into total desert covered with the corpses of a peaceful population. But no pressure on a button and no order holds back the rising prices of an escalating inflation or prevents a decrease of industrial production and the dollar course or puts an end to the shameful racial discrimination in the USA.

The USA are still the country of records—but today they are records in criminality and brutality, of moral degradation and depravity, of political and holdup murders, records of economic and personal insecurity.

What Karl Marx wrote almost 100 years ago in *The Civil War in France* is still a thousandfold true for the USA and the whole of Latin America, for Asia and the Near East, for the part of Europe which is still capitalist:

“The civilization and justice of bourgeois order comes out in its lurid light whenever the slaves and drudges of that order rise against their masters. Then this civilization and justice stand forth as undisguised savagery and lawless revenge.”

The daily imperialist incendiarism must seem foreign, weird and unbelievable to all who live in the German Democratic Republic where we are quite and securely, systematically and intelligently constructing Socialism. But it would mean to gamble with everything which we love and is dear to us if we closed our eyes to the dangers American monopoly capitalists and their main ally the West German federal republic provoke against peace-loving humanity.

To stand up against these dangers, to prevent them and finally to fully banish them is the holy task of the Socialist community of states headed by the Soviet Union. It is the task of the Marxist-Leninists in the whole world in alliance with all working people and that of the peoples standing in the national-revolutionary liberation struggle. Also in future, the German Democratic Republic will play an honourable role in this world-wide and world-decisive conflict by increasing its economic and political, its social, cultural and military power.

The Implementation of the 1970 National Economic Plan

**From the report by Comrade Günter Mittag, member of the
Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee**

With the decisions of its twelfth session the Central Committee fixed the necessary standards and the main tasks for the implementation of the 1970 national economic plan, the achievement of which is a decisive condition for the further all-round strengthening of the GDR. The struggle for the implementation of this plan means for our party to take important steps forward in shaping the social system of Socialism by means of the creative application of Marxism-Leninism and further successfully implementing the political economy of Socialism.

How the direction and organization of work in all spheres must take place in order to do full justice to the high standards adopted by the party was worked out in the decisions on the Socialist organization of science in the chemical industry and in the speech of Comrade Walter Ulbricht in Merseburg.

In implementing these standards it is important to mobilize all forces for the maximum increase in labour productivity and in the effectiveness of social labour, primarily through the application of the law of the economy of time, and to ensure everywhere the comprehensive implementation of the economic system of Socialism.

This requires conducting an energetic struggle for the solution of the focal points of national economic development, which consist in

- establishing the research basis for obtaining pioneering and peak performances and the application of system automation through the mastery of the Socialist organization of science;
- guaranteeing complex Socialist rationalization through higher

- individual initiative and the enterprises' own production of the means for automation and rationalization; and
- treating the increase in labour productivity and raising effectiveness as an indivisible unity and setting standards for investments which bring about a decisive lowering of specific investment costs and costs per unit of the product.

The experiences of the struggle for the all-round fulfilment of the 1970 plan show that it is of decisive importance how these new standards and requirements are carried over into the mode of thinking and working of all managers in the state and economy by means of scientific management.

The key to overcoming the objective difficulties which have come into existence as a result of the long winter also lies in the profound ideological comprehension of this necessary new content and the new methods of leadership as well as their close connection with the correct guidance of the great initiative of the working people in Socialist emulation under the tested slogan "Produce more rationally—for yourself, for your enterprise, for our Socialist peace state".

That is at the same time also the most important prerequisite for completely fulfilling the tasks for the further improvement of the working and living conditions of our people set forth in the 1970 plan. As a result every working person will be conscious of the indivisible, reciprocal connection between his personal efforts for the all-round fulfilment of the plan and the benefits which he himself and our entire society will draw from increasing labour productivity, reducing costs, raising production and the quality of products.

Now it is important to study the many good examples and outstanding experiences of the best enterprises and collectives and to make them the generally valid norm of activity in every enterprise and integrated works, in every branch of industry, in every county.

In this it is not simply a question of the disciplined fulfilment of production indices and rates of growth, but of the unlimited utilization of all mental and material potentialities of Socialism, which demonstrate its historical superiority as the most progressive social system and consolidate our position vis-a-vis imperialism. The tasks contained in the Law on the 1970 National Economic Plan adopted

by the People's Chamber of the GDR therefore represent an objective necessity, the implementation of which requires a very responsible and qualified political, ideological and organizational activity on the part of our entire party and the strenuous diligent and creative work of all the people.

Emphasizing this is necessary because there are voices which, under the impression of certain difficulties and tensions, say that the plan is too high and must be "relaxed".

The party leadership was faced, both in the discussion of the 1970 plan tasks and in the discussion of a number of basic problems of the next long-range plan, with answering the question:

Either making the efforts and overcoming the additional burdens which nature has imposed on us with high working spirit and Socialist consciousness, so that the upsurge of the national economy can be continued systematically and according to plan,

or taking only small steps forward, which means remaining behind in the national economic development tempo as a whole and at the same time renouncing a further improvement in working and living conditions for a few years.

The great efforts of the working people praised in the report of the Political Bureau and the level of their political and moral readiness to increase their performances which became apparent, prove that the tasks for 1970 adopted at the twelfth plenum of the Central Committee can be mastered with high creative initiative and strict discipline.

However, we must also state that under the complicated conditions of implementing the plan certain shortcomings and weaknesses in planning and management have become evident.

It is therefore a special concern of the report to give the Central Committee a party assessment of the political and ideological problems of implementing the 1970 plan and thus also to speak frankly about what must be changed and improved in order to improve class education, ideological consolidation, state discipline and the level of qualification.

On the Implementation of the Decisions of the Seventh Party Congress in the Sphere of Planning and Management in Implementing the 1970 Plan and the Tasks Arising Therefrom for Political and Ideological Work

Designing the Most Effective Structure of the National Economy

At the Seventh Congress Comrade Walter Ulbricht called the designing of the most effective structure of the national economy the main task of the economic system of Socialism.

Proceeding from this the tasks derived from the scientific and technical prognoses were fixed and implemented in the national economic plans of the past years. We are continuing this line with the 1970 national economic plan.

Of course not all data for implementing the policy on the structure of the national economy adopted by the party congress were available at the same time. First, the economic system of Socialism was worked out and tested. As a result we are in a position to apply the economic system of Socialism completely as from 1971. Then last year a beginning was made in the thorough working out and theoretical clarification of the organization of science, and, proceeding from the chemical industry, the organization of large-scale research and the Marxist-Leninist science of organization were already practically applied in some spheres of state and economic leadership.

The process of working out the effective structure of the national economy was from the very beginning not implemented one-sidedly as a set of material and technical tasks but as a comprehensive further development of the entire social foundations of Socialism in the GDR. Therefore the reform of higher education and the academy reform as well as the results of the Pedagogical Congress exert a deep-going influence on the development of the structure of our national economy.

Such processes cannot be completed arbitrarily. The means for research and science, for the educational system and for automation—with the simultaneous constant improvement in working

and living conditions—can be obtained only through the growing increase in the national income. For this reason the tasks set forth in the 1970 plan are a reflection of the objective requirements for implementing the decisions of the Seventh Party Congress.

Successes of the Economic System of Socialism

What progress have we made in implementing the policy on the structure of the national economy?

It is an important advantage of Socialist planned economy that in the few years since the Seventh Party Congress deep-going structural changes in the national economy could be carried through along with a steadily rising educational level and standard of living of all strata of the population.

We had to begin with an assignment of cadres and a concentration of investments which made possible a maximum extended reproduction in the tempo-determining branches.

It is, for example, provided in the party decisions that the development of technology is characterized by shifting over from discontinuous to continuous work processes and by the integration of work stages and the utilization of unified production equipment. Here, especially high tasks were assigned for the development of electronics and the construction of scientific instruments.

For their solution it was necessary to work out, in close cooperation with the Soviet Union, new product systems, investigate modern technologies and make available the necessary investments for this. In comparison with the entire national economic investment sum the volume of investments for electrical engineering and electronics was therefore quickly increased to almost three times the previous sum after the Seventh Congress.

Not only in electrical engineering and electronics and scientific instrument construction, but also in other fields such as engineering, the building industry and light industry significant changes are being made in the production profile. A beginning was made in working out uniform machine systems in accordance with the latest design and technological principles. The working out of the most important uniform systems alone is a tremendous scientific

performance, which can be planned and directed on such a scale only under the conditions of Socialist planned economy for the entire national economy.

The progressive effects of the structural policy are becoming visible in various ways. Within only five years the share of fully or partially automated installations has more than doubled. More than a quarter of all machines and installations is at present either partially or fully automated.

Here, the shift in the quality of the automation process is especially significant. We are obtaining a degree of automation of 70 or 80 per cent in the objects of system automation and begin the process of automation already in the stage of preparing production, on the basis of the uniform system. Such objectives are set forth in the 1970 plan as priority tasks. The struggle to fulfil them is of great importance because we thereby create the places for obtaining higher productivity and effectiveness in the following years.

As a result of the decisions on structural policy we were in a position to begin a new phase of development in the building industry, light-weight metal construction, in connection with the expanding of refining metallurgy by the production of cold-formed light steel profiles in 1968–1969.

Within a short period the working people of this branch of industry have shown how the struggle for top performances is prepared and successfully carried through. Based on the experiences of 1969, in 1970 2.8 million square metres of covered space will be erected in light-weight metal construction with a completely new technology. Top performances on individual building sites amount to 1,600 square metres per day. Through training and the qualified management of the light-weight Metal Construction Combine this branch has fulfilled its plan tasks exemplarily despite bad weather.

In the chemical industry various tasks were not solved with the envisaged tempo. Plan fulfilment is still not stable in some important enterprises. But here, too, there is progress. For example, the use of plastics will increase by 52 per cent in 1970 over 1967 and synthetic fibres by 75 per cent. On the basis of the decisions of the Political Bureau of October 1969 and of the Council of State of March 1970 on the organization of science everything is

being done for this sphere important for the national economy to be able to fulfil its pace-setting function.

The beginning industrial-type extraction of native natural gas also contributes considerably to improving the supply of raw materials for the chemical industry.

Basic changes were also carried out in the field of science and the educational system. The training of mathematics and natural science cadres, especially, has decisively increased.

Such positive and impressive results in implementing the structural policy are also to be noted in agriculture, trade, transport and other fields. They were possible only through the concentration of forces and means on the decisive focal points in science and technology and in the development of systematic collaboration with the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries.

This development of the structure of the national economy also took into consideration the possibilities and consequences arising out of the joint decisions of the member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) for further Socialist economic integration. As a result the economy of the GDR with its dynamic development is effectively adapting itself to the system of the Socialist division of labour and fraternal collaboration with the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries.

This policy of our party is in full agreement with the decisions of the 23rd and 24th sessions of the CMEA which contain the direction and main tasks for the further development of international Socialist economic integration. In this we consider decisive the provision for intensifying collaboration in prognosis work and in the field of planning, the orientation on uniting the efforts of the CMEA member countries for top performances in decisive fields of material production as well as in the perfection of the clearing and financial relations among the CMEA countries.

That is our common road for reaching a high level of labour productivity and an efficient national economy, which is objectively necessary in the class dispute with imperialism.

On the Level of Plan Fulfilment

As was expressed in the report of the Political Bureau to the Central Committee the working people have further raised the efficiency of our Socialist national economy by exemplary production results in Socialist emulation in the first five months of this year.

Because of the complicated situation in the first quarter of 1970 industrial commodity production increased by only 4.2 per cent in comparison with the same period of last year and labour productivity grew by 3.1 per cent. These results were considerably below the goals set for the national economic plan.

As a result of the organized struggle for complete plan fulfilment a considerable increase in the rate of growth was obtained in April and May. As a result the monthly plan for industrial commodity production could again be completely fulfilled already in April and a part of the production arrears could be made up. This development was continued still more strongly in May. The growth in commodity production rose by 13 per cent on the basis of the work day in comparison with May 1969. That means the fulfilment and surpassing of the monthly plan, which could be obtained primarily by the considerable increase in labour productivity of 11.5 per cent in industry. In the centrally directed industry the productivity of labour increased even some 13 per cent in May.

The level of the 1970 plan fulfilment has considerably improved as a result so that on the whole in the first five months the increase in labour productivity now amounts to 6 per cent and commodity production shows a rate of growth of 6.8 per cent over the previous year. There exist no longer any plan arrears in the production plan of the ministries of the raw materials industry, mining, metallurgy and potash, processing machines and vehicle construction and light industry.

Also in the field of the Ministry of the Chemical Industry the plan arrears have been reduced in comparison with the end of March. The increased commodity production of the last months also led to an increase in exports of 11 per cent in comparison with the same period of last year.

Especially in the fields of the chemical industry, electrical engineering and electronics, heavy engineering and equipment

construction and the building industry it is important to intensify considerably the efforts for the complete fulfilment of the plan so as to guarantee continuous plan fulfilment in the second half of the year.

Fundamental conclusions for improving planning and management in various fields arise out of the implementation of the national economic plan as a whole up to date.

On the Shaping of an Efficient Socialist Organization of Science

By way of the 1970 national economic plan we have, for the first time, begun to apply, in accordance with the focal points for the formation of a highly-effective structure, the latest findings of the Socialist organization of science in industry, building and transport, as well as at universities and colleges on a national economic scale in a complex manner.

To implement a highly-efficient structure of the national economy under the conditions of the scientific and technological revolution today means to accomplish pioneering and top achievements in crucial fields of research and development by implementing the principle of "overtaking without catching up" and to utilize them with the utmost economic effectiveness within the framework of system automation. This is the central issue within a highly-effective structural policy.

On the extent and level of the scientific and technological achievements in fields which determine the structure of the national economy, therefore, depends in a decisive measure the rate of the growth of the productivity of social labour during this year just as in the years to come.

This applies both to the development of new products and, in particular, to the exploration and development of new highly-productive technologies, principles of work and operation which allows us to carry out the complex automation of important national economic processes with the optimum economic effectiveness.

From this task there emerge the difficult but objectively necessary

standards which are of decisive importance for the assessment of the results achieved so far of the implementation of the 1970 national economic plan. These are the tasks by which many enterprises are guided in their struggle for the implementation of the national economic plan.

The Nationally-Owned Refined Steel Works in Freital were, like many other enterprises, faced with overcoming great difficulties in the first quarter of 1970 especially as a result of the spasmodic supply with basic materials and power as well as of extraordinary difficulties in transport to and from work. The fact that it has been possible to overcome these difficulties comparatively well is due, as the comrades in the factory party branch stated themselves, to the following circumstances:

"The workers were continually and comprehensively kept informed on the real problems without them being minimized. In this context we did not primarily highlight the objective difficulties but the problems and shortcomings of our own efforts in managing and organizing the implementation of the plan. These were the very problems which we were able to influence by our own improved work and increased efforts. The management worked out concrete measures and had them discussed at meetings of shopstewards and the party and trade union branches.

After the new plans had been confirmed we worked exactly in accordance with them.

Many of our workers state time and again: 'We insist of being correctly informed about the problems so that we are able to work accordingly and lend all our support until all problems and difficulties are overcome.' "

To Ensure a Research Base and the Highest Effectiveness

The crucial issue for the comrades in that enterprise is not to allow themselves to be distracted from the safeguarding of the basic questions of creating an advance base in research and the struggle for the highest effectiveness by the necessary and costly operative control of production resulting from the catastrophic weather conditions and their after-effects.

Now as before, first consideration must be given in their managerial activities and in their emulation drive for the all-embracing fulfilment of the 1970 plan to concentrating on the establishment of the scientific and technological advance in research, development and technology and on the complex mechanization and automation through Socialist joint work.

This applies to decisive tasks such as the starting of production of ten new products which correspond to the top world standards.

Of paramount importance for the implementation of the standards set by the party is the setting of even higher goals in the emulation campaign than envisaged in the 1970 plan.

While the goal in the state plan for 1970 envisages an increase in labour productivity of 11 per cent, the goal in the emulation campaign has been raised to 12 per cent. In the profitability of funds, increase of 15.8 per cent should be raised, as a result of the emulation drive, to 16.9 per cent and the net gains are to reach as much as 45.1 per cent instead of 42.1 per cent.

There are, however, a number of managers of factories and combines who, in the light of the difficulties of the first quarter, paid scant attention to the goals of automation and rationalization and the struggle for the maximum reduction in costs.

We must not, however, at any time allow these fundamental tasks for the mastery of the scientific and technological revolution to be neglected, since they exert a decisive influence on the rate of growth of the national economy and, consequently, on the economic strength of the GDR. After all, these are the crucial issues in the class struggle between Socialism and capitalism in the economic sphere.

We should therefore like to state with the utmost emphasis that the solution of these crucial tasks of the plan establishes the very basis for the next long-term plan and, at the same time, is the most decisive prerequisite for the fulfilment of the 1970 plan in all respects.

The Political Bureau is fully aware of the fact that such an approach to the implementation of the 1970 plan means increased efforts by all working people. Consequently, there is a constant need for the greatest attention to the safeguarding of the working and living conditions of the working people.

It is no coincidence that the plan of the Freital steel-workers for their scientific and technological tasks at the same time comprises a program for the elimination of arduous physical labour. They have drafted precisely-formulated plans for the systematic reduction of noise, heat and dust as well as for the extension and new establishment of nearby recreation facilities.

One of the basic questions for the all-embracing fulfilment of the 1970 plan regarding both quantity and quality combined with a high national economic effectiveness is the systematic lowering of costs.

At the 12th session of our Central Committee it was emphatically proved that the main influence is exerted on the lowering of costs and the achievement of high profitability in the spheres of research, development, planning and technology.

Whether the issue is an increase in labour productivity, the reduction of costs, the higher economic effectiveness of investments, economizing on materials or improvements in use value and the ensuring of high quality, all of these economic requirements of our political struggle for the superiority of Socialism can be realized only on the foundation of purposeful scientific and technological performances and their complex utilization in production.

Numerous enterprises have, by correctly carrying out the decisions of the party, placed their main emphasis on those processes which are today decisive for optimum effectiveness. They consistently implement the principles of the modern Socialist organization of science and development, on the basis of research work, technological and operational solutions which form the basis for the lowest possible costs of production and for a minimum of investments in realizing the research results.

High results are achieved where, as a direct part of managerial activities, orienting the research groups on the highest world standards of the future controllable and accountable standards which, in conjunction with cost accounting, form a guiding line and incentive for the full unfolding of the creative power and new ideas of the scientists, workers, engineers and economists.

Of great importance in this context is a strict discipline and order in the planning and realization of the economic effect of the research and development tasks.

Proceeding from the prognosis and the long-term plan, e.g., at the Nationally-Owned Refined Steel Mill in Freital the research theses were defended before the general manager of the combine and a panel of experts from other spheres.

For the calculation of the expenditure-profit relation there exists a generally-binding system and methodology. The general manager of the combine allocates to the factories criteria of effectiveness as the minimum limit for every research subject.

According to this system the following relationships have to be established:

- research expenditure to the annual gains of the enterprise;
- research expenditure to annual gains for the national economy;
- research expenditure plus investments to annual gains.

In this manner, a decision can be made right from the beginning not only on the best technical parameters of the research project but, at the same time, on the most favourable level of costs of the future production.

The scientific management of these processes must proceed from the objectively necessary interrelations between pioneering and peak achievements in research and their transfer into production with a maximum saving of time. This makes it imperative to lead the ideological struggle against routine practices with the aim to combining the up to now prevalent sequence of research, planning and transfer to production into an integrated process.

In a similar way as in the 8. Mai Nationally-Owned Refined Steel Mill in Freital, work has been organized in a large number of big enterprises and combines such as

Bandstahlkombinat Eisenhüttenstadt,
Chemiefaserkombinat "Wilhelm-Pieck", Schwarza,
Kombinat Kabelwerk Oberspree,
Werkzeugmaschinenkombinat "7. Oktober", Berlin
Uhrenkombinat Ruhla and
VVB Schiffbau

and also in such small and medium enterprises as the
VEB Draht und Seilwerk Rothenburg (Halle county),
Welton Meiningen (Suhl county)
Vereinigte Holzveredlungswerke Leipzig.

These factories and combines are reliable partners of the national

economy. They distinguish themselves by their consistent fulfilment of the plan with high effectiveness. We should like to stress the fact that this mode of operation is of basic significance since it corresponds to the very nature of the economic system of Socialism.

The development of management, however, shows many differences as to the implementation of the plan. In those enterprises which fulfil the plan in a reliable and consistent manner, a high level of scientific managerial activity has emerged.

In the overwhelming majority of enterprises with plan arrears the causes can be found primarily in shortcomings and weaknesses in management. Some of these enterprises are, for example:

Fettchemie Karl-Marx-Stadt,
Elektromat Dresden,
Förderanlagen „7. Oktober“, Magdeburg,
Textilmaschinenbau Zittau,
Möbelkombinat Berlin,
Starkstromanlagenbau Erfurt.

To quote an example: in VEB Starkstromanlagenbau Erfurt, the sector research and development does not operate on the basis of concrete indices on expenditure, costs, gains etc., nor is there a proper control by the management of the works for the safeguarding of a proper relationship between expenditure and research project or for a continuous control.

The demands made by the plan for the reduction of costs are neither the point of departure nor the basis for the setting of targets or tasks regarding research and development.

This situation characterizes the false basic attitude of the leading officials of these enterprises, who, as the responsible head of the research and development sector expresses it in a critical vein, underrate the importance of the scientific and technological advanced basis.

The party branch is therefore justified in criticizing the lack of precise tasks and the accounting of cost indices as inseparable parts of enterprise planning and thereby the inadequate realization of the costs-gains calculation on the basis of the plan.

The responsible activities of every manager for the fulfilling of these paramount tasks mark, to a decisive extent, the demands

on the necessary determination and readiness of the Socialist teams to show the highest performances.

This applies especially to the managers of combines.

Basic Demands on the Managements of Enterprises and Combines

With combines (or integrated works) the working class of the GDR has established that form of the organization of science and the economy offering the most favourable opportunities under the conditions prevailing here for system automation on the basis of revolutionizing technologies and the use of electronic data processing.

The results of plan fulfilment in the first five months of this year show that many combines are to a great extent carrying through these tasks oriented on the highest economic aims, and are playing a decisive role in the struggle to increase labour productivity.

This new quality is above all obtained in those combines which are fully aware of their economic responsibility and which

- guarantee continuous plan fulfilment using technologies based on the latest scientific findings, and on the basis of strict technological discipline and the most rational organization of production;
- organize Socialist cooperation on the basis of a modern organization of science with the greatest gains;
- work out system prognoses with the necessary scientific advanced starting basis for pioneering and top performances;
- transfer research and development results quickly and efficiently into production; and
- purposefully and successfully implement system automation and complex Socialist rationalization.

To consider these requirements is one of the basic demands on the scientific level of management of the reproduction process in the combines.

This presupposes that every works and combine manager is fully aware of his responsibility for the national aims and tasks within the entire sphere of production, that, proceeding from the economic requirements, scientific and technological goals and

tasks be laid down which challenge the Socialist joint work of scientists, engineers and workers to the most creative activity and the highest performances.

It is the manager who is above all responsible for the working out and confirmation of the tasks and aims of research and development, for the necessary advance basis for pioneering and top performances in those fields decisively promoting growth and effectiveness.

From the previous results of plan fulfilment two current basic demands on the general managers of combines and on the manager of enterprises have been crystallizing concerning the further development of the Socialist organization of science:

Firstly, it is necessary to elaborate within Socialist large-scale research such tasks and goals as will—at the time of their utilization—make an important contribution to the struggle for the economic superiority of our Socialist society over capitalism; and secondly, it is necessary in the interest of raising economic effectiveness to considerably reduce the time needed for the implementation of these tasks.

The superiority of the Socialist organization of science should be made use of in the interest of setting far shorter time limits for research, development and the transfer to production than is usual and than is possible at all under capitalism.

These are no doubt very hard and complicated goals. But the success of our struggle absolutely depends on their implementation, and our Socialist relations of production provide all necessary prerequisites for it.

It is the key problem that all managers realize this political and ideological necessity and that the technical prerequisites for implementing these tasks are given.

The experience gained so far in the implementation of the 1970 national economic plan shows that the development of the Socialist organization of science is at present being delayed because some managers are not sufficiently aware of their responsibility for the scientific and technical work in the reproduction process to be directed by them.

What is the effect of this incorrect attitude?

Managers responsible for working out large-scale research projects are still not giving the necessary priority to these tasks.

— Most of the programs for large-scale research projects were not ready on schedule.

There are delays of more than six months. The program for the "integrated machine-tool system" large-scale research project, for example, should have been defended as long ago as October 1969. The defence had to be postponed four times, however, owing to the inadequate quality of the program submitted. Only towards the end of May 1970 was it possible to include this point in the agenda of the Executive Committee of the Research Council.

A similar situation prevails regarding large-scale research projects in picture and data recording processes and in the textile and clothing industries.

— The disparaging attitude some managers adopt vis-a-vis large-scale research projects is also shown by the fact that they do not exert the necessary influence on the elaboration of scientific and technical aims, that they do not make high economic demands on scientific and technological work which orients scientists, engineers and workers on research and the application of new, hitherto unknown technological processes and products. Within the scope of some large-scale research projects, for example, considerable forces and funds are to be employed for purpose which are already known internationally.

The large-scale research project on glass products for science and technology which basically has a high scientific and technical goal, and which is exemplary for many other programs, includes some aims which have already been implemented internationally.

In other words: This large-scale research project includes the goal of solving the problem of coating glass with plastic materials within the period from 1974 to 1975. This aim, which is laid down as a pioneering and top performance, has already been put into practice in several other countries.

Similar things also exist with regard to other large-scale research projects, for example, in the chemical plant industry. According to statements by the director of the industry's large-

scale research centre, "not the highest economic efficiency in the chemicalization of the national economy" on the basis of the objective set is being reached.

All these facts show that the standards and demands we must expect of genuine pioneering and top performances are far higher than some managers are able to imagine. Evasion of resulting difficulties coupled with self-satisfaction is currently one of the main obstacles in the way of the all-round implementation of the Socialist organization of science in accordance with the party decisions.

The managers in question have above all not yet realized that the organic integration of scientific and technological work in the reproduction process—as was demanded by Walter Ulbricht at the ninth session of the Central Committee—is the pivot for the development of the Socialist organization of science corresponding to the economic system of Socialism.

Behind this attitude adopted by the managers in question is concealed a many-sided ideological problem.

The problem is mainly evidenced by the fact that the managers do not assume their personal responsibility for working out the tasks and goals of scientific and technical work, or are trying to evade their responsibility by leaving the necessary decisions to their assistants or to the heads of the research and development centres.

This necessarily results in a differentiation between responsibility for production on the one hand, and for scientific and technical work on the other.

We therefore expect the Minister of Science and Technology to pay the greatest attention to the determination of goals and tasks for scientific and technical work and, in particular, to large-scale research projects. By this we understand that during Research Council meetings dealing with the aims for obtaining pioneering and top performances and the corresponding time-limits for the implementation of these aims the demand to "surpass without catching up" be uncompromisingly borne in mind, and that all tendencies to avoid difficulties, of self-satisfaction and mediocrity be dealt with thoroughly.

Why have such symptoms to be counteracted consistently?

Anyone who, under the condition of the scientific and technological revolution, allows a separation between responsibility for scientific and technological work and for production, that is to say, who separates the production of today from research and development as a basis of the output of new products and processes of tomorrow, unequivocally violates the economic laws of Socialism and provides for himself a multiplicity of difficulties for production in the years to come.

The development and promotion of a high degree of responsibility on the part of managers regarding scientific and technical work should be greatly supported by the enterprise party branches through purposeful political and ideological work.

We deem it necessary for the party organizations in particular to check on how the managers observe their responsibility vis-a-vis scientific and technical work.

The following basic ideas could be the foundation of the work of party organizations in clarifying ideological problems linked with it.

New developments do not come about on their own. They are to be promoted with all means at our disposal that is, great partisanship and a scientific approach are needed, to organize and manage these processes. This necessitates a clear conception which, initiated by the leading cadres, is to unfold and make use of the creative work and militant spirit of the working people.

With this basic orientation the working people of the Nationally-Owned KWO Cable Combine in Berlin, for example, started to organize science and by automating cable production showed exemplary methods for its implementation. The comrades of this combine were in this connection guided by the idea that in the struggle for a high rate of growth in increasing labour productivity it should be the aim of the Socialist organization of science to develop above all new and highly productive technologies and work principles and to use them within the framework of system automation. In this particular case it was a question of jumping over entire technological stages.

The three automation projects to be carried through in this combine in the course of 1970 fully correspond to these goals.

By introducing a single system line instead of four technological processes labour productivity in the production of winding wire and

high-voltage cable using highly productive rolling will increase by 315 per cent with a degree of automation of 85.7 per cent. By working in three shifts investments will be amortized within 1.8 years. The products determine or correspond to the highest scientific and technological standards.

Present standards in realizing the Socialist organization of science, in particular in automating entire connected production systems, at the same time involves a number of ideological problems on the solution of which the enterprise party organizations should exert special influence.

Through systematic political and ideological work the important characteristics of a Socialist manager such as a sense of responsibility, enterprise, courage, abundance of ideas, the courage to take risks, and pride in one's own accomplishments are to be encouraged and developed. In this way managers will be enabled to make full use of the creative potentialities inherent in Socialist cooperation.

All these conclusions are of fundamental importance for the work of the enterprises and combines which in connection with the developing Socialist organization of science have to implement complex automation projects. They are also of importance, however, to many enterprises which today and in the years to come will pursue the road of complex Socialist rationalization.

The way in which, with little expenditure and with one's own forces, considerable reserves can be made available for increasing labour productivity and guaranteeing high quality is outstandingly shown by the staff of the Nationally-Owned Stahlverformungswerk (steel processing works) in Ohrdruf. It produces automation and rationalization equipment for modern storage technology which is used in many industrial enterprises and enterprises selling means of production.

Leading economic officials were clear that they could not count on big investments or aid from outside. They therefore worked out a clear conception for the development of their factory on the road of Socialist rationalization. The workers in all workshops were informed in detail about the prevailing situation and about how on the basis of rationalization high efficiency as well as an improvement in working and living conditions could be achieved. As a result

of this political and ideological work on the part of the leading economic officials and of the party branch the workers became enthusiastic about rationalization. In close cooperation with the Central Institute for Welding Technology in Halle and with the Institute for Rolling Mill Technology in Riesa they designed and produced in their own factory most of the necessary equipment for rationalization.

All this was done without interrupting production. When necessary this work was done in the workers' own time over weekends. Feeling that their experience, their ideas and their suggestions were considered and put into practice the workers felt that complex rationalization was their own affair.

As compared to the beginnings of complex Socialist rationalization in this enterprise in 1967, commodity production increased by more than 60 per cent and factory results by almost 80 per cent. Labour productivity doubled. Overhead costs were reduced from 81 to 70 per cent.

The way in which this enterprise implements rationalization fully corresponds with the decisions of the 12th session of the Central Committee.

And it is in this way that we understand the struggle for high labour productivity within the entire range of its possibilities.

Tasks for Obtaining Continuous Production

The tense struggle for the fulfilment of the 1970 plan tasks has shown very clearly, particularly in the past few weeks, that many enterprises have overcome arrears more swiftly because they have qualified leading personnel. These are Socialist managers who interpret, in their sphere of responsibility, the objective demands of economic laws in terms of conscious human effort and who firmly involve the working people in the tasks of planning and management by providing aimed information on the tasks to be tackled.

As a result an increasing number of workers, technicians,

engineers and other working people become aware that their own efforts can play a decisive role in strengthening the Socialist order and in further improving the Socialist way of life.

Those who take on bigger tasks in the interests of society naturally regard more critically what is going on in the enterprises and combines; they inquire more emphatically about the "why" and demand from the management clear answers and information.

Those who devote additional hours of their free time to social production look more sharply at the economy of time.

This reaction is extremely positive. It shows that the basic ideas of the economic system of Socialism have become firmly anchored in the thinking and acting of the working people.

In a number of enterprises, in connection with the necessary special shifts, workers have drawn attention to the fact that the results of plan fulfilment have been negatively influenced not only by the winter, but also by insufficient managerial activity and shortcomings in the technological and organizational preparation for production.

Properly aimed and successful work often exists side by side with considerable arrears and with outmoded methods of planning and management within one combine, within one association of nationally-owned enterprises, within one ministry.

We have to state quite clearly from the standpoint of the all-round strengthening of our republic:

Nobody has the right to neglect the good experiences and results already achieved by other collective teams and successfully-working officials in the implementation of decisions and the fulfilment of the national economic tasks.

For the Highest Standard in Scientific Managerial Activity

It is the political task and the moral duty of all managerial personnel to reach the highest standards in scientific managerial activity and constantly to measure their work against the work of the best.

One of the basic tasks in the politically and ideological work of the state organs and all party organizations is to implement this.

It is therefore necessary that all managerial personnel in the state and economic organs should examine what shortcomings, obstacles and unsolved tasks exist in their field of responsibility, what factors have a negative influence upon the continuity of plan fulfilment, upon human initiative, and which violate the law of the economy of time.

What is the main task? The main task is to wage more consistently in all its phases the struggle against the waste of social labour resources in the national economic process of reproduction.

Here primarily it is a question of the necessity of managerial personnel devoting greater attention to the technological and organizational preparations for production.

The multi-shift usage of expensive fixed assets wins ever greater importance for the economic effectiveness of production.

Highly-productive machines and installations objectively force us to organize shift-work if an enterprise wishes to achieve low costs, growing gains and increasing means for giving material recognition and for improving working and living conditions.

From this basic position there must be a consistent continuation of the campaign to convince the working people and to create the most favourable conditions for multi-shift work, the "uninterrupted week" and production round the clock.

It has become obvious that reserves have by no means been exhausted in the struggle for the highest productivity and effectiveness. Reserves are to be found in a thorough preparation and projection of production, in particular by the use of modern, highly-productive technologies and conversion processes economical in the use of material.

Some managers attempt to overcome shortcomings in this field solely through mass initiative, overtime work and special campaigns on the part of the production workers. Experience shows clearly, however, that shortcomings in the process of production preparation, in design, in the introduction of new technologies and processes etc., cannot be overcome in the process of production itself, or only with the greatest difficulties.

This is shown by the situation in such enterprises as the Nationally-Owned Sachsen Works in Niedersiedlitz, the Nationally-Owned Measuring and Regulating Technology Combine in Dessau

and in the Nationally-Owned High Voltage Equipment Works in Erfurt. It has been clearly shown here that the main cause for the plan arrears lies in the insufficient technological preparation of production.

In these enterprises it is necessary for the works managers to quickly identify the causes for the existing situation and implement measures to bring about a clear change. This is of great political importance for the situation in the whole enterprise. This would not only lead to the safeguarding of plan fulfilment but would also create a healthy atmosphere of struggle in the entire enterprise collective.

The thorough preparation of continuous production is of prime importance particularly for the coming weeks. On this basis it will be possible to achieve by the end of June production results which will guarantee that from the beginning of the second half of 1970 the plan can be fulfilled without additional special shifts.

It is particularly important to approach these questions correctly and with a sense of political responsibility. In a majority of enterprises all the prerequisites exist to reach the plan figures by 30 June. Only in a handful of enterprises, which constitute an exception since at the moment they have not solved the problems of cooperation and larger material difficulties despite the great achievements of the collective, it should not be attempted to reach a formal achievement of the plan. In these enterprises the course to be taken is that after consultation with the superior organs they should lay down concrete proposals for overcoming the plan arrears after 30 June.

It is therefore necessary to explain these targets in detail to the working people. There is a twofold aim: all-round fulfilment of the plan for the first half year and at the same time the creation of all prerequisites for fulfilling and over-fulfilling the plan in the second half year, particularly in the months July and August, and in all its sections.

Secondly, it is necessary to take urgent steps in some individual branches to improve management, the organization of cooperation and the balancing of accounts.

There are a number of examples of the way in which the relations of interdependence between the cooperation partners have not

been exactly planned and managed; as a result the enterprises, even within one branch of industry, hinder one another in plan fulfilment.

This shortcoming is particularly apparent in electrical engineering and electronics.

For example, it is impossible at the moment to complete communications equipment to the value of four million marks because of the lack of a few thousand mechanical filters, for which the Nationally-Owned Electronic Construction Elements Combine in Teltow is responsible. Arrears of components of the electronic industry hinders the production of switch, control and regulating elements in other factories. These factories in turn have arrears with regard to the machine factories and this delays the completion and supply of complete machines and installations. Thus, significant arrears in production, solely because the supply of parts for the final production was not clearly laid down in good time, produced a chain-reaction.

In the Ministry of Electrical Engineering and Electronics not enough importance has been attached to these questions and the struggle for plan fulfilment has not been taken seriously enough. We also have to come to this conclusion when we see that the same ministry has since August 1969 not been able to reply to the question posed by the Nationally-Owned Hans Beimler LEW in Hennigsdorf as to how this enterprise should fulfil its plan if decisive parts are not supplied. Since the beginning of this year the works manager of this enterprise has received 258 letters and 25 teletype messages from his ministry, but not one of these communications clarified the important questions posed by the enterprise.

It is clear that it will be necessary for the ministry to manage more strictly the process of plan fulfilment. In this branch of industry, which is so important for the implementation of the structure policy, the correct drafting of the scientific reproduction systems must be reflected in a model plan fulfilment as the result of precisely organized operative management.

Every ministry must assume the political responsibility for the planned development of its branch of industry and the entire economy and this must be largely reflected in making the necessary

decisions in good time in the field of cooperation. It is precisely in this area that we need a stricter plan discipline and state discipline.

On this basis, too, the comrades who are responsible for supplying the economy with castings must thoroughly check the methods of work hitherto used. The present difficulties in the supply of castings are mainly the result of the fact that even in their plan the Association of Nationally-Owned Foundries set its targets too low for production increases in the enterprises for which it is responsible.

The general manager tried to remedy things by later demanding, administratively, higher rates of increase from the foundries. In particular he ordered the foundries of other spheres to produce additional castings without having provided the necessary prerequisites. This is not the way to reach a solution of the complicated problem of supplies of castings, a problem which has existed for years.

The workers of the Elstertal Foundry in Silbitz in the Nationally-Owned Steel Castings Combine in Karl-Marx-Stadt have, with their appeal for an emulation contest, shown the way in which the problem of supplying castings must be tackled immediately. The situation demands that all combines and associations of nationally-owned enterprises which have foundries must bear the responsibility for implementing complex Socialist rationalization in such a manner that in the course of 1970 there should be a noticeable increase in the production of castings, and at the same time an increase in quality and a decrease in costs; in this way the problem of the supply of castings could also be ensured for the 1971 plan.

These examples clearly show that it is a question of improving managerial activity, not only by individual methods but mainly by the correct political and ideological attitude of the managerial personnel to the growing demands.

In this connection we consider it necessary to draw conclusions in principle, as a result of the effects of the past winter, for the planning and management of the economic process of reproduction under such unusual conditions. This applies in particular to the supply of power, transport, the building industry, the supply of materials, and reserves of coal for domestic heating. In the

basic materials industries this entails a maximum production of raw lignite and briquettes, the maintenance of capacity increases for electric power and gas, and speedy repairs in the power plants.

All enterprises and installations must take measures in good time for the creation of the necessary stocks and reserves of coal, certain materials, means of transport and building material. Care must be taken that these stocks are carefully and properly stored so that there shall be no losses. Goods which demand large transport capacities should be stocked by the users in the summer months. All in all the state organs and economic organs must make preparations for winter in such a way that production with the highest effectiveness can also be guaranteed despite snow and frost.

Consistent Application of the Principle of Frugality

The third task is to apply the principle of frugality consistently.

The struggle to increase labour productivity and increase effectiveness is inextricably linked with the consistent application of the principle of Socialist frugality.

Socialist frugality is a basic principle of Socialist economy, a principle which wins growing importance in the developed social system of Socialism.

Under "frugality" we do not mean parsimonious and bureaucratic clinging to every mark. When we use the term Socialist frugality we mean applying each mark so rationally today that tomorrow and the day after tomorrow it will produce ten and twenty marks for society. This means that we must sharply and consistently prevent any attempt to waste money.

Money should be used without hesitation where the aim is high output, where pioneering and outstanding achievements are made in a short period, where is a high rate of development in raising labour productivity and reducing costs. However, wherever even the slightest attempt is made to waste money, where material and financial means are expended generously without it being clear that a high effectiveness can be produced in a short time, then those responsible are to be called to order consistently and sharply, and punished with the full force of our law.

Every worker at his place of work and every citizen who applies the principle of Socialist frugality in social life in this sense, makes a contribution to the fulfilment of the plan tasks in 1970 and to successfully tackling the even greater tasks in the period of long-term planning.

The Political Bureau and the Council of Ministers of the GDR are preparing a joint decision on the consistent application of the principle of Socialist frugality in the economic system of Socialism.

The core of this problem is that economizing in the Socialist sense means above all that it should be applied and implemented as an integral component of Socialist management and educational work.

Socialist frugality accords directly with the basic interests of the working people. It can therefore only be implemented with and by the working people.

Tens of thousands of workers are working in their enterprises, at week-ends, too, with great readiness for complete plan fulfilment and the use of every hour of working time; but on the other hand there are some enterprises in which the legal hours of work are not utilized by far as a result of indiscipline and routine.

When we criticize such things it is not simply a question of plan fulfilment and the wastage of working hours. What we are particularly concerned with is to overcome the remains of old modes of thinking and acting, and introducing the norms of Socialist social life. We may not and we will not allow individuals to damage the interests of society by the non-fulfilment of their duties and by their indifference.

Elementary principles of Socialist frugality are the economical use of working hours, the most exact use of working hours and the productive use of working hours. No enterprise collective may allow working hours to be devoted in undue measure to celebrations, meetings and conferences.

The Political Bureau believes it is necessary to draw the attention of the party organizations to the task of energetically opposing all forms of waste and the infringement of the principles of Socialist work morality.

The branch committees of the party should take the appearances

of petty bourgeois modes of thinking and acting as the occasion for intensifying the class education and discussion on the observance of the principles of Socialist morality.

The Presidium of the Council of Ministers has adopted a regulation on the further implementation of financial discipline and an economical Socialist management to prevent such infractions. The branch committees of the party and the trade unions should strictly check to see that this regulation is consistently adhered to by the managers.

We expect the managers and employees of the financial, banking and price organs to assume their responsibility for the comprehensive implementation of the principle of Socialist economy still more consistently by actively exerting an influence to see that the available material resources and funds are so employed that they bring a multiple benefit in the shortest possible time and that at the same time all efforts to squander social means are strictly and uncompromisingly prohibited.

The party organizations must declare ideological war on all appearances of the waste of material and meet them with a strict control that relies on the initiative of all working people.

Every party organization must pose the problem of the effectiveness of the economical use of material, as a responsibility for raising the national income, to be an ideological problem.

The Political Bureau considers it necessary for the Council of Ministers to issue a decree which requires every enterprise to bring the system of material consumption norms and material stock norms to the most modern level by means of scientific methods and to base the planning and the implementations of the planned on this new level. This regulation must at the same time ensure for managerial activity in the combines and enterprises that a strict system is guaranteed in the stock keeping of material, that a strict inventory system is applied and that a more rapid turnover of material and commodity reserves takes place.

The party poses this problem not as an emergency solution but as a general task for the careful use of our national wealth.

A High Discipline in Implementing the Plan Required in All Spheres

All these three mentioned problems are part and parcel of the general problem, namely, that a high discipline in implementing the plan is required in all spheres. In this respect, the State Planning Commission bears a great responsibility in preparing and making decisions on the implementation of the 1970 plan and in this connection also in drawing the necessary conclusions for the 1971 national economic plan.

The decision of the Political Bureau on the continuation of Socialist emulation clearly orients on having the complete fulfilment of all parts of the 1970 plan in every enterprise, every integrated works (combine) with regard to quantity, quality, assortment, fixed dates, costs, and gains be decisive for attaining the goals set for the all-round strengthening of the GDR and for the further development of the Socialist way of life of the working people.

That means that the political-ideological and managerial guarantees have to be created by the activities in the field of leadership for making the demands of the state the basis and standard for determining the goals of the plan in each and every enterprise, integrated works, and foreign trade undertaking in accordance with the central conception of the economic system of Socialism. The fact that the significance of the plan as the decisive political task of the state is not understood everywhere in its full magnitude is proved clearly in practice by responsible heads of state and economic bodies who for months permitted that the goals set in the national economic plan with regard to a number of products decisive for the structure of the national economy were included in the plans of the enterprises to an extent of only 95 per cent and less. This is, for example, true of the planning of silicon transistor production in the Nationally-Owned Semi-conductor Works in Frankfurt-on-Oder and that of automatic injection moulding machines for plastics in the Nationally-Owned Plastics and Elastics Integrated Processing Machine Works in Karl-Marx-Stadt.

As a result of such a politically irresponsible attitude by leading officials, the required planned production of such important prod-

ucts as light-weight metal constructions, analyzers for technological processes, packing machines, unsaturated polyester and thus measures for the automation of production systems and complex Socialist rationalization as well as for the production of high-quality consumer goods is not guaranteed to the full extent from the very start.

It is also incompatible with the responsibility of a Socialist manager if, for instance, the Nationally-Owned High-Voltage Equipment Works in Erfurt did not yet have a binding plan for 1970 in May this year. By these and similar practices the binding force of the state plan is undermined and the initiative of the working people is not directed to the high goals of society.

In the mentioned enterprise the plan is to be replaced by operational solutions which contain such tasks as that, for instance, only 30 per cent of the tasks set forth by the state are to be fulfilled in the first half of the year and only about 70 per cent up to the end of the year. Such facts arise because the state control of the exact implementation of the tasks fixed by the state is insufficient.

Investigations by the Central State Administration for Statistics, the Workers' and Farmers' Inspection and the State Auditing Administration have shown that a number of enterprises subsequently alter the figures on plan fulfilment and also submit wrong estimates on the actually possible fulfilment of the plan in coming months. Thus, for instance, the Nationally-Owned Photochemical Works in Berlin, an enterprise of the Integrated Photochemical Works in Wolfen, irresponsibly named the plan figures of the following months as the presumable fulfilment of the export contracts without mentioning the substantial arrears in plan fulfilment. As a result difficulties arise for the planning of the balance of payment, because contrary to the advance estimate the actual fulfilment in March was only 66 per cent and in April only 50 per cent.

Relentless actions must be taken against all such violations of the central state plan, because this conduct means nothing else than allowing part of the 1970 plan to operate haphazardly.

Such matters must be branded as blatant violations of the principles of the economic system of Socialism.

Tasks for the Further Fulfilment of the 1970 Plan in Agriculture and the Food Industry

Cooperative farmers as well as agricultural and forestry workers have been making great efforts in the past few months to fulfil the plan. This corresponds to the great responsibility of cooperative farmers as well as all working people in Socialist agriculture for supplying the citizens of our state with foodstuffs and industry with raw materials. Similar great efforts will also be necessary in the coming months in the interests of fulfilling the 1970 national economic plan and in preparation of the 1971 plan. These efforts will promote additional steps in 1970 towards developing an intensive agriculture.

As a highly developed industrial country the German Democratic Republic needs an intensive, efficient agriculture. In this connection the Manifesto of the Seventh Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany to GDR citizens says: "The developed Socialist society will be characterized by an agriculture which is organized on the basis of scientific findings and industrial methods and distinguishes itself by high soil fertility and stable yields."

It is absolutely clear that this is an extremely great task which includes the development of complicated ideological, economic, scientific and technical processes the implementation of which will have to be systematically linked with social developments over a prolonged period of time. The fulfilment of these tasks demands considerable efforts on the part of the cooperative farmers, cooperative market gardeners and farm workers, of all working people in Socialist agriculture and in the food industry, as well as of workers in the chemical industry, the tractor and farm machinery and building industries.

It is the task of Socialist agriculture in our Socialist economy to make the maximum use of all natural conditions prevailing in the country for the systematic supply of the population with foodstuffs and of industry with raw materials from agricultural home production. Under conditions in the GDR where only .37 hectares of arable land are available per head of the population for the cultivation of agricultural produce, this means that agricultural output will

have to be continuously intensified and raised. The per-hectare yields and nutritional qualities of all soils will therefore have to be increased to the utmost, even when the necessary intensification measures on soils of lower quality is linked with a higher expenditure of living and crystallized labour per unit of product than on good soils.

Under our conditions the struggle for higher efficiency in agricultural output is first and foremost a struggle for high and increasing yields of plant and animal produce while at the same time making the most rational use of the soil and of all available material and financial resources. It should not be permitted, therefore, that efficiency and high gains are considered from the individual point of view of any one agricultural production cooperative (LPG) or any one state farm (VEG), and that on the basis of such views economically untenable concentration and specialization measures are taken the results of which may have negative effects on supplies for the people by specializing away some cultures.

The Councils for Agricultural Production and the Food Industry in the counties and districts bear special responsibility for these questions. It is their duty to correctly plan and direct these social processes together with the cooperative farmers so as to guarantee that the objectively necessary measures of gradual concentration and specialization yielding high economic results are implemented systematically. In this connection nothing should be left to itself and no impermissible acceleration should occur.

The further Socialist intensification of agriculture is a comprehensive task of great importance to the entire future development of Socialist agriculture and industry.

This is not a momentary task and should not be underrated. The increase in food production in the years to come—under the 1971–75 long-term plan—and agriculture's contribution to the economic strengthening of the GDR will depend on systematic work towards the further Socialist intensification of agricultural production.

By developing an intensive and efficient agriculture we at the same time put into practice one of the basic concerns regarding the development of the advanced social system of Socialism—the constant consolidation and expansion of the working class's

alliance with the class of cooperative farmers. It is an important task of the party branches and leading organs to explain to the working people these political and economic connections.

The further Socialist intensification of agricultural production is inseparably linked with the expansion of inter-farm and farm-factory cooperation. Everybody should understand that maximum benefit to the national economy as well as to the individual LPG can only be achieved by further developing voluntary cooperation of the LPGs in their cooperation associations. Particularly in the past few months the fact has again been proved most convincingly that production and intellectual and cultural life have been developing most satisfactorily in those cooperation associations which promote cooperation most purposefully.

The political and ideological work of the party and the work of government and economic bodies will always and everywhere have to proceed from the fact that voluntary cooperation on the part of the LPGs in their cooperation associations is the main road towards further developments in agriculture as resolved by the Seventh Party Congress. The groups of cooperating farms are an adequate basis for further Socialist intensification, for increases in production, for a rapid rise in labour productivity and for systematic reductions in costs. They make possible the increasingly effective utilization of living and crystallized labour. Only in the cooperation associations are the LPGs able to employ their financial and material resources in such a way as will simultaneously correspond to the requirements of the scientific and technological revolution.

Cooperation on the part of the LPGs in associations is advantageous to the individual LPG and is likewise of great importance to the national economy because it provides for the more rational use of existing production funds and for the more effective use of joint investments. The associations of cooperative farms provide the best scope for taking the objectively necessary steps systematically and to the greatest economic advantage—towards a concentration and specialization of agricultural production under our conditions.

It is precisely the coping with the complicated tasks of the 1970 plan, the preparations for and the shift to the 1971 plan which demand the purposeful further development of voluntary coopera-

tion on the part of LPGs in their cooperation associations, a fact which was again proved by the experience of the past few months.

On the basis of even more far-reaching cooperation it will thus be possible to do away with existing arrears more quickly and also to provide reliable foundations for next year's economic tasks.

Advances made in developing voluntary cooperation in cooperation associations aiming at a further Socialist intensification are decisively influenced by the application of Socialist farm management in every LPG and horticultural production cooperative (GPG), as well as in the nationally-owned agricultural and forestry enterprises.

Socialist farm management is the decisive instrument for the all-round utilization of the economic laws of Socialism in the LPGs and VEGs. Socialist farm management synchronizes the interests of LPG members with those of the LPG collective and the entire society. This is not yet fully understood everywhere. It is therefore the duty of the LPG party branches to ensure that in the further application of Socialist farm management economic accounting is extended and that payments on the basis of exact norms doing justice to performances and payments to leading cadres depending on plan fulfilment are perfected.

We consider the fact that leading cadres in some of the LPGs refuse payment in accordance with plan fulfilment one of the main reasons for Socialist farm management in these particular LPGs not being fully applied. This runs counter to inner-cooperative democracy and frustrates the further development of the farmers' initiatives. It is particularly those LPGs the leading cadres of which are not remunerated in accordance with plan fulfilment which still have big plan arrears or an especially low production level.

This problem is no longer the affair of an individual LPG therefore, but a problem concerning the whole of society. The district committees of the party should induce their basic organizations in the LPGs to see to it that the LPG executive committees adopt a politically and ideologically correct position concerning this question. In the elected Councils for Agricultural Production and the Food Industry in the districts this question should be discussed openly and appropriate conclusions drawn for the application of Socialist farm management in all LPGs. These measures are to guarantee

that the available forces and means are rationally used everywhere in the interests of higher production.

Socialist farm management naturally includes order and cleanliness as well as the constant improvement of working conditions and a better job environment.

The consistent struggle for the fulfilment of the 1970 plan and the establishment of firm production bases for the 1971-75 period remain first and foremost tasks. Supplies for the people require responsible work for plan fulfilment on the part of every LPG, GPG and VEG. As a result of the current level of staple food supplies from domestic agricultural production individual responsibility for high plan discipline is growing. Any deviation from the plan affects systematic supplies for the population.

Therefore every LPG and every enterprise of Socialist agriculture should also guarantee plan fulfilment in all points through developing initiatives in Socialist emulation.

The struggle to fulfil the 1970 plan in Socialist agriculture should be combined with solving the tasks of crucial importance for the 1971 national economic plan and further developments.

First, it continues to be essential to further increase per-hectare yields and the nutritional yields of the fields and pasture land of every LPG and VEG. In this connection all forces and means are also in the future to be concentrated on improving soil fertility and on the implementation of complex amelioration projects.

It is necessary to fully realize the investments envisaged in the plan for the improvement of soil fertility. No deviations should be permitted. As in many industrial enterprises it is also necessary for the Nationally-Owned Meliorationsbau enterprise and for the amelioration cooperatives to quickly overcome arrears and furnish guarantees for the fulfilment of the 1970 plan in this important sector.

It is the implementation of investment measures for improving soil fertility which has a determining influence on the further development of agriculture. This includes the completion on schedule of the planned agro-chemical centres.

Secondly, it is necessary to increase fodder production and better utilize fodder in the interest of higher animal production. It is also necessary to more consistently apply up-to-date methods of fodder

cultivation, preservation and storage and use forage in accordance with the latest scientific findings. High forage production and stable forage reserves in every LPG and VEG are the basis of efficient fodder planning.

It must be pointed out with all determination that investment projects for the protein production for fattening animals as well as other projects important to GDR agriculture must under all circumstances be completed and start production according to schedule.

Thirdly, it is a question of developing animal stocks, especially of cows and sows. It is a question of improving breeding results for cattle, pigs and sheep, of increasing the productivity of animal stocks and of guaranteeing the more rapid marketing of animal stocks. One of the main conditions for this is the more careful implementation of measures for care and maintenance and the strict observance of all demands of veterinary medicine for healthy breeding. More efforts are necessary in the field of stock breeding with the aim of raising more efficient breeds of animals.

The development of animal stocks in LPGs of type I demands special attention. Responsible bodies in the counties and districts must, in preparing the 1971 plan, examine the extent to which absolutely necessary structures for the safeguarding and development of the stock of animals in LPGs of type I must be carried out. In these areas that can lead to shifting investments within agriculture.

In connection with the elaboration of the 1971-75 long-term economic plan further steps were worked out for the development of the economic system of Socialism in agriculture and in the food industry in the interests of further increasing agricultural production in 1971-72. These steps will be discussed with the cooperative farmers in the next few weeks.

These measures aim at the better utilization of the economic laws of Socialism and at making even more effective the advantages of Socialist relations of production. They will also help in the thorough preparation of the 1971 national economic plan.

It is intended to develop prices and price and norm supplements in such a way as to encourage all LPGs and VEGs to make more effective use of existing conditions for increasing production and in

this connection raise accumulation funds to the required extent, taking into consideration more correct relations to consumption. In the sense of the further development of the repayment sums an economically-substantiated payment is being introduced in LPGs of type III which relates to gross incomes obtained and stimulates a further increase in production.

On the whole these measures are designed to further increase agricultural production, advance Socialist intensification, rationalize the entire reproduction process in agriculture and guarantee an increasing contribution of Socialist agriculture to the national income.

The working people of the enterprises processing agricultural produce bear a great responsibility for plan fulfilment and continuous supplies for the people. They should improve coordination between their flow of production and that of the LPGs and VEGs by means of the contract system.

Further measures have to be taken to bring about a high utilization of raw materials and the best quality of foodstuffs, and to avoid all unnecessary losses. Labour productivity has to be increased and costs reduced by way of systematic rationalization measures and the partial automation of processing industries as well as through the implementation of the planned automation projects. Comradely cooperation between processing enterprises and the LPGs and VEGs is to be further consolidated so as in agreement with national economic requirements and the concrete conditions, the processes of the further development of production, processing and supplies, including transport and storage, are organized in a highly effective way.

Tasks Connected with Comprehensive Application of Economic Accounting

As a result of the comprehensive application of the economic system of Socialism the nationally-owned enterprises and combines have a higher degree of responsibility for planning and managing

the reproduction process for the greatest good of society. Steadily increasing funds for use and growth are being entrusted to them. In accordance with the principle that they should themselves earn the means for further expansion, they have at their disposal—within the framework of the central state plan—a large part of the net income they earn; this they have to use as effectively as possible on their own responsibility.

This means that they must achieve a higher quality of accounting and controls which accords with the economic system of Socialism.

Our social interests as a whole and the basic principles of Socialist management of the economy demand that a strict regime of accounting and control be maintained in all combines. Lenin's statement that economic accounting and control are most important, that they are what is necessary for the correct functioning of Communist society in its first stage is as valid today as it was in the first years of Soviet power; in fact, it gains even greater importance as the economic strength and material potential of Socialist society take on ever-increasing dimensions.

It is now high time to put into thoroughly consistent practice the principles of accounting and control—especially those connected with the responsibilities of chief accountants in the economic system of Socialism—laid down in the regulations on the tasks, rights and duties of the nationally-owned enterprises.

Responsibility of Chief Accountants Increases

Investigations show that—contrary to the decisions on the economic system of Socialism—the function and responsibility of the chief accountant have been restricted and even, in some enterprises, done away with completely. Many chief accountants are now concerned mainly with accounting processes and exercise an insufficient influence on the most effective shaping of the reproduction process by means of exact control of expenditure and usefulness and of carrying through the principle of Socialist economizing.

The Political Bureau therefore considers it necessary that the Council of Ministers require that all nationally-owned enterprises, combines and VVBs (associations of nationally-owned enterprises)

appoint chief accountants as government controllers and that they consider it their duty to adhere strictly to the legal order necessary for this function for the purpose of safeguarding the public interest. In addition, it is necessary to coordinate the legal regulations in the Decree on the Uniform System of Accounting and Statistics fully with those in the Decree on the Tasks, Rights and Duties of the Nationally-Owned Production Enterprises, so that—through the work of the chief accountants—the protection and most productive use of nationally-owned property and the most economical use of material and financial means can be effectively guaranteed. The chief accountant's responsibilities include, first and foremost, ensuring that bookkeeping accurately reflects the actual situation and that the funds at the disposal of the enterprise are used in the most effective way, and the objective analysis of the economic development of the enterprise.

The economic system of Socialism has resulted in considerably increased responsibility for the enterprises themselves. Since with regard to their funds it is a matter of state property the function of state control must be strengthened, in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism.

For this reason the following decisions must be included in these measures:

- Full responsibility of the chief accountant for all accounting and control over what goes on in the enterprise on the basis of the plan, here he must strictly apply the legal government norms and must not accept or permit any directives whatever which deviate from these norms,

- Duty of the chief accountant—already in the process of preparing decisions—to see that important measures to ensure the maximum economic effectiveness are introduced and that there is an exact accounting and control of plan fulfilment. For this purpose the chief accountant must have the right to attend all meetings in the enterprise.

The Decree on the Tasks, Rights and Duties of the Nationally-Owned Production Enterprises unambiguously stipulates that the chief accountant is directly responsible to the manager of the enterprise and that he is appointed and dismissed by the head of the superordinate body. It is also advisable to lay down that decisions

on the financial recognition of the chief accountant's work be made only by the head of the superordinate office.

It is also necessary to extend the powers of the Finance Minister. The Finance Minister should have the right to call chief accountants together for conferences and to present reports and give them special control tasks in connection with problems of economical Socialist management and shaping a highly effective enterprise management. The Finance Minister must have the authority to object if necessary to the appointment or dismissal of chief accountants.

The chief accountant must in future have the right and the duty to apply directly to the Finance Minister on all questions connected with safeguarding state planning and finance discipline. To ensure effective and rational financial control, the chief accountants are to cooperate with the banks and state financial control authorities in accordance with special directives of the Finance Minister.

The Political Bureau suggests that the Council of Ministers issue a binding decree to the effect that heads of all enterprises and combines shall be required to report back monthly either to elected organs such as the production committees, permanent production councils or—where possible—full meetings of the employees on the situation with regard to plan fulfilment and the results of Socialist emulation. The deputy head should also—as conditions in his enterprise permit—be required to give reports on this basis in meetings of work shifts and departments and team meetings, so that the workers are kept thoroughly informed about the tasks and problems of the enterprise.

In these report meetings, forums of Socialist democracy, achievements by innovators and pace-setters should be evaluated and appreciated and the measures necessary for the complete fulfilment of the plan discussed and explained. It should be obligatory for the chief accountant of the enterprise and representatives of the Industrie- und Handelsbank to give evaluations independent of the works manager's report.

The state financial control authorities must attend these report meetings for the purpose of evaluating the results of controls and suggestions for improving state planning and finance discipline.

It accords with the essence of our Socialist democracy to keep

working people fully informed about the real situation in their enterprises, for the high aims of the 1970 plan and the objectively rapid tempo of development of the long-term plan can only be achieved with the help of their strength and initiative.

Experience shows that government tasks are fulfilled wherever a genuine analysis of the actual situation and a relentless comparison with world standards is conducted and wherever clear decisions are made and wherever, in close cooperation with the social organizations, the strength of the entire collective group is directed towards increasing labour productivity, rationalizing production and making full use of equipment and working hours. Our workers' consciousness is so far developed today that they are not satisfied to be debtors of their Socialist state and live at the expense of others.

Improvement of Marxist-Leninist Education, Training of Personnel and Political Work with the People

The successful fulfilment of the 1970 plan is a matter of Marxist-Leninist thinking and action by the working people, but especially in the case of leading personnel in the enterprises, combines, VVBs and ministries and in the State Planning Commission.

The first of all the steps and measures towards reaching the necessary higher quality in the work of planning and management is the acquisition of Marxist-Leninist knowledge. Only when Marxist-Leninist ideas are deeply rooted in people's minds and determine their thought and action is there a foundation for a full unfolding of their creative activity in the cause of the all-round strengthening of Socialism.

We are concerned here with the unity of Marxist-Leninist theory and practice. The essence of Marxism-Leninism consists in the fact that its basic theoretical ideas live in practice and continually penetrate it anew. The application of Marxism-Leninism therefore means doing everything possible to strengthen Socialism in all fields.

The tasks facing us today in carrying out the 1970 plan, tasks determined by the high standards set at the Seventh Party Congress and the 12th session of the Central Committee can, to a greater extent than ever before, only be solved if the entire wealth of Marxist-Leninist ideas is taken as a starting-point in all problems. In what way can the advantages and driving forces of Socialism be effective other than by the politically conscious, creative action of the people? This is only possible on the basis of Marxist-Leninist ideology. This applies to all questions connected with shaping the developed social system of Socialism, including its economic system.

This irrefutable truth is now more valid than ever before. What emerges today as a delay in plan fulfilment often has its roots to a very considerable extent in the ideological attitude and thus in the standard of Marxist-Leninist education and training of personnel. Some people cannot keep up with the tempo at which the demands of the economic laws of Socialism are changing because they do not fully understand the living, dialectical character of Marxism-Leninism. They therefore do not penetrate far enough into the essence of the tasks facing them, arrive at timid conclusions and are not able to take up the necessarily forceful militant position.

Some results of tests and interviews with candidates for admission to the Party College, for example, throw a sharp light on the standard of Marxist-Leninist knowledge and its application in the case of some comrades who hold responsible functions in enterprises, combines and government offices.

Many of these comrades do not know or are insufficiently acquainted with the classics of Marxism-Leninism. These comrades have at least admitted these gaps in their education more or less frankly. But others have tried to deceive the entrance commission and revealed excessive superficiality and lack of responsibility towards the party.

For example, Comrade Ölschläger of the Ministry of Mining, Metallurgy and Potash, was asked whether he had read Lenin's "A Great Initiative". He said he had done so. He was then asked what decisive problems Lenin had dealt with in this work. His

answer was that Lenin had here developed the plan for co-operatives in detail.

Engineers, chemical workers, building workers and many other workers—men and women—are today studying the works of Lenin. A large number of young people in the Free German Youth organization are making themselves thoroughly familiar with the wealth of Lenin's ideas, so as to be able to act and work in accordance with them. How much greater, therefore, is the responsibility of leading functionaries in the government and economic apparatus to concern themselves with the basic works of Lenin in the original text.

Another comrade declared that he had not studied the classical works at all in recent years and that he could remember nothing of what he had read earlier. He said it was not important to know which classical work had developed specific ideas. What was important was to grasp the essence of Marxism.

Of course it is important to grasp the essence of Marxism, but is this possible without a thorough study of Marxist ideas? What architect or designer could be satisfied with grasping the essence of architecture as such without possessing an exact knowledge of how to construct a building and design it? After all, we do not want just any building with just any style of architecture, we want to carry out the great, beautiful and at the same time complicated work of shaping the developed social system of Socialism. This calls for an intensive study of Marxism-Leninism as the condition necessary for applying it successfully in our Socialist practice.

The attitude to the study of Marxism-Leninism, of the works of the classical Marxist-Leninists, of the experience of the Soviet Union and of our party decisions is a matter of one's attitude to Socialism, to its ideas and to the struggle to get our party's decisions implemented. That is why we take these things very seriously. Without an exact study of the Marxist-Leninist classics, which does not mean simply the acquisition of knowledge but includes being imbued with the ideology of Marxism-Leninism, it is impossible to carry out the decisions of the party on shaping the developed social system of Socialisms.

Our strength consists precisely in the fact that Marxist-Leninist science and ideology is becoming a great productive force in the

broadest sense on the soil of the Socialist social order. A decisive factor of our superiority in the class conflict consists just in the unity between the acquisition of and permeation with Marxism-Leninism and all the knowledge of advanced natural science.

The study and practical application of the political economy of Socialism must also be approached from this angle. Without this it is impossible to put the economic system of Socialism into practice exactly and effectively. For in the economic system of Socialism it is not primarily a matter of the knowledge of individual decrees, measures and regulations connected with planning methods, but of a knowledge above all of the fundamental advantages of the Socialist social order, of the demands of the system of economic laws and of the ways in which people's creative activity can be developed under the leadership of the party.

The present state of affairs is clearly that the fundamental questions of Marxist-Leninist political economy do not yet predominate throughout the entire process of training, but that in some cases there is a danger of the study of economics being confined to the acquisition of specific methods.

Partial solutions, partial models and various schemata are worked out, sometimes extremely abstract and isolated from reality, with the result that schemes of this kind cannot be applied in practice because even the initial approach to scientific work is incorrect. Instead of regarding the content of the work to be done and what is needed for a practical solution as an entity, work is still centred too one-sidedly around the presentation of methods, techniques and also, to some extent, around formal schemata. This is also true of many qualification courses.

At the Freiberg Mining Academy it was and still is to some extent the practice that not even the economic disciplines, such as Socialist industrial economics, are thoroughly imbued with the political economy of Socialism. There was also no link between this subject and the political economy of Socialism. Instead of this, individual professors tried to mark off their special fields by definition. The teaching of political connections and knowledge of Marxist-Leninist theory is therefore limited to some basic lectures, mostly at the beginning of the course.

Making Marxist-Leninist political economy the point of de-

parture and decisive basis of work undoubtedly applies to the training of leading economic personnel in the institutes of Socialist management of the branches of industry, too. Here Marxism-Leninism must be taken as the point of departure, the political economy of Socialism must be made a basic integral part of advanced training measures and, within this framework, specific current problems of the application of this or that method dealt with.

No one is permitted to take his own private opinion on the main content of training, teaching and research as the standard in training and thus in fact evade the main orientation of the party under the mask of an apparent "scientific approach".

The treatment of the basic problems of the political struggle is assumed to have been dealt with and the so-called specialized problems are then dealt with without the necessary political evidence. Others mention certain basic Marxist-Leninist terms in a formal way in a suitable "introduction", but they still do not understand how to arrange their entire training and educational work in such a way as to give it a thoroughly living Marxist-Leninist content.

Fundamental for the entire content of all these qualification lectures, including the so-called specialized lectures, must always be the leading role of the party, the dictatorship of the proletariat, the basic tasks in the class struggle, since solution of the economic problems and the application of modern methods of planning and management needed for this can never be ends in themselves. The content of training is still not sufficiently stamped by this inspired political content and militancy in carrying out party decisions.

The single problems of political economy and of the special economic fields are often still handled in a departmentalized manner, that is, they are not adequately linked up with people's practical work under working-class leadership in shaping the developed social system of Socialism. But here it is a question of basic problems of linking up Marxist-Leninist theory and practice in scientific work as a political task.

The essence of the economic system of Socialism as the practical application of the political economy of Socialism consists, after all,

in the fact that it lives in people's thoughts and actions and is intended to enable them to make deliberate use of the objective economic laws of Socialism under the leadership of the party of the working class.

Carrying out the economic system of Socialism means, therefore, that people act in a politically conscious way. That is why it includes central state planning, scientific leadership, individual responsibility of the enterprises and combines on the basis of the central state plan and, expressly, the immediate participation of working people in planning and management. Only in this unity of all aspects of the economic system of Socialism can the advantages and driving forces of Socialism be fully effective and its Marxist-Leninist character come to life.

In connection with the acquisition of Marxist-Leninist knowledge in inseparable connection with modern specialized science it is a matter of basic problems of education for the working class and all working people. At the Educational Congress the decisive ways to achieve the unity of Marxist-Leninist education and acquisition of good specialized knowledge were outlined, as a means to creative work in shaping the developed social system of Socialism and mastering the scientific and technological revolution.

These are exceptionally urgent problems. The situation today is already such that the social responsibility of individual workers or groups of workers for the most effective use of national property has increased enormously.

While at present the majority of workers still service single machines, the tendency is increasing for individual workers or groups of workers to check and control entire series of production installations. In the chemical industry a few workers are already in charge of connected plant and production processes with an investment value of 50 to 150 million marks. This is the value of the equipment of a respectably-sized engineering works. Economically significant values on which entire branches of industry depend are earned in every shift with installations of this kind. In the crude oil distillery No. III in the Schwedt Petroleum Processing Works, for example, production per shift has a value of 600,000 marks and this is produced by six men.

This throws a clear light on the enormous economic respon-

sibility of individual workers both for the use of important production funds and also for supplies of important products to the economy. It has hardly necessary to stress that here a knowledge of the immediate servicing of equipment alone is by no means sufficient, although here, too, qualitative changes are needed. Here a high measure of political responsibility, economic thinking and willingness to work are of especially decisive importance.

These examples reveal general trends in development which make it necessary to view the entire complex of Socialist education in a very much broader way, far beyond earlier ideas about the extent of the knowledge needed by a skilled worker. Along with automation the worker is becoming more and more the master of entire production processes and systems of plant. The knowledge of the qualified skilled worker is combined with the abilities of the Socialist economist and manager on the basis of a high degree of Socialist consciousness. In this way workers are in a far better position to do justice to their role as Socialist owners. They learn not only to penetrate farther into the laws of nature and apply them to increasing labour productivity, but at the same time they learn to master the economic laws of Socialism better and better.

Our Comrades' Willingness to Work – an Inspiration to the Working People to Do Creative Work

We can say with full justice today that the achievements in our economy in the past weeks and months are an eloquent expression of the tireless and purposeful work done by the comrades of our party, of their willingness to work, their qualifications and their close links with all working people. The outstanding work by many thousands of workers in the past months was done under the leadership of the party of the working class. The task was to master national economic tasks under the complicated conditions of the hard winter. Comrades of the county and district committees, together with comrades of the departments of the Central Committee, often worked day and night, making many sacrifices, organizing a rapid catching-up on plan deficits and the speedy repair

of damage done by the winter weather. They gave direct help and support to the party organizations and leading economic functionaries in the enterprises and combines. This contributed very largely to directing more attention in political and ideological work in the enterprises and combines towards plan discipline and adherence to plan. Without this consistent struggle by the party organs to get party decisions carried out we could not successfully complete the tasks we have to solve in 1970 and in the coming years from 1971 to 1975.

We attach great importance to this stage in political work. The results achieved are an expression of the struggle conducted by the party committees with scientific exactitude and by the use of well-tested methods of political leadership. These results were possible because the situation was at all times correctly evaluated and leadership organized on the basis of this exact analysis of political, economic and ideological needs. Here it is important to note that the party organizations not only explained the immediate production tasks to the working people but also the connections between political, economic, scientific-technical and intellectual and cultural problems. The political and ideological clarity achieved by party organs and the party organizations in the enterprises and combines was a decisive condition in getting a step ahead so as to maintain continuous production and catch up on plan deficits with the help of extra shifts.

This means that the political leadership of all party organs was clearly directed towards putting into practice the Central Committee's orientation on the basic solution of the main tasks in a principled and creative way and, in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism, guaranteeing the necessary tempo of our social development with the help of all working people.

We also especially desire to pay tribute to these achievements of our party workers, because they often had to make the correct decisions and take the right action under extremely complicated conditions. We particularly appreciate the fact that the majority of comrades of our party took on many burdens in solving these problems, put their own wishes last and gave up a great deal of their free time to give highly effective service to our common social interests.

Labour Productivity, Effectiveness and the Highest Efficiency of Investments

It is necessary in connection with carrying out the 1970 plan to consider some important problems of the preparation and carrying through of investments. In conducting the 1970 investment plan we are already reaching forward far into the period of the next long-term plan and thus creating to a very considerable extent the conditions for economic efficiency of social labour in coming years.

What is the present situation in this field?

In the building industry an 11 per cent increase was achieved in May 1970 compared with the same month last year, with the help of special measures for the productive use of regular working hours, extra shifts and concentration of building capacity on structure-determining investment projects.

In the majority of centrally-run building and construction combines and in the Erfurt and Gera county building combines managers and party organizations succeeded in organizing the struggle to fulfil and over-fulfil the planned daily targets through good ideological work and the thorough preparation of production.

But means and forces were not everywhere concentrated sufficiently on decisive projects, so that there are still many difficulties in getting the work done. Plan targets up to date have been 88.5 per cent fulfilled in the building industry as a whole and only 81 per cent in housing construction. The arrears in industrial building are mainly in projects of the chemical industry, power, transport (especially in autobahn construction), the universities and technical colleges, in sports establishments and a number of buildings in the Berlin city centre.

The arrears in structure-determining projects are the result especially of inadequate preparation by those commissioning investments and above all of non-adherence to contracts by a number of cooperation partners.

The most serious arrears are in the following enterprises:

- Bau- und Montagekombinat Süd
- Bau- und Montagekombinat Kohle und Energie

- Autobahnbaukombinat
- Ingenieurhochbau Berlin
- Geräte- und Reglerwerk Teltow

These enterprises are also mainly responsible for arrears in a number of automation projects.

Plan fulfilment in housing construction is completely inadequate. Almost half of the plan arrears here are in the Berlin, Halle, Dresden and Schwerin counties. This serious situation in housing construction shows that the Ministry of Construction and the county councils did not provide the necessary conditions in planning to ensure continuous, highly effective production by the housing production combines.

There are differences of up to 40 per cent in the productivity of the housing production combines, for example.

Comprehensive Use of the Law of the Economy of Time

A key problem in investments is that there are signs of considerable increases in costs in a number of projects. Investigations made indicate that increases averaging 20 to 30 per cent more than the planned volume of investments have arisen in a large number of projects. Especially in power plant construction and in building for the chemical industry, the prices quoted by the general and main contractors in engineering, electrical engineering and the building industry are considerably higher than the investment expenditure laid down in the original decisions.

In the case of 22 big projects alone, with a total investment volume of 5.3 thousand million marks, the additional expenditure foreseen is about one thousand million marks. The main reasons for these increases are the following:

- totally inadequate attention was paid in investment planning to prognoses of future peak world standards and to comparable analyses of prices and costs, and
- the general and main contractors do not organize with sufficient consistency the struggle to obtain the highest possible labour productivity and lowest possible costs throughout the chain of co-

operation, beginning in the fields of designing and preparation and continuing down to the building and supply enterprises.

This is a matter of a violation in principle of the economic laws of Socialism, especially of the law of the economy of time. The application of the law of the economy of time must be in the forefront of fulfilment of the 1970 economic plan because only in this way can we achieve high effectiveness in the economic production process. It is a question of increasing labour productivity and increasing economic effectiveness as an unit. We stress this because we are concerned with the effective results for the national economy in the fulfilment of plan tasks.

It is not only a question of reaching the individual plan indices, we must ask ourselves how the results of the work of an enterprise or a combine will in fact affect the national economy as a whole, how it will contribute to speeding up the growth of the national income and its most effective use.

To conduct the struggle to increase labour productivity in the spirit of Lenin, therefore, means not only to increase production per head in the enterprises but, far beyond this, to aim expenditure and results in the enterprises towards the highest possible efficiency. For only then will the necessary productivity of social labour be achieved in the entire national economy. It is a question of comprehensive application of the law of the economy of time.

Included in this are:

1. increase in production per worker, that is, of the usual indices of labour productivity, and also

2. extensive reduction in production costs in all their elements. For the index for increasing labour productivity includes only the living labour done in the enterprise, which is only one third and sometimes only 15 to 20 per cent of the total expenditure on social labour, expressed in production costs.

Also included are

3. the production and delivery of products in such a way that the user is satisfied in the most rational way. The national economic value, the effectiveness emerges in the phase of realization.

Connected with this is

4. placing new products of the top scientific and technical standard, in functioning condition, at the disposal of the national

economy as early as possible. Very often the extent to which labour productivity can be increased by the use of these products depends very largely upon this. This is a basic question in speeding up the process of intensively extended Socialist reproduction.

And finally, it is a question

5. not only of merely reducing costs, but of reducing the specific expenditure of production funds, especially of the basic fund per unit of production. Not only labour time is expended in making products. An increasing amount of production funds, especially basic production funds, are being used. These funds are not available to society in unlimited quantities. An increase in these funds comes primarily from the national income and determines the future rate of growth. It is therefore an ever-urgent problem to build up an increasingly larger social product by the most rational use of production funds.

Within this complexity it is therefore important to pay attention to the demands of the law of the economy of time and to make it the yardstick in carrying out the plan. Labour productivity is decisive here, in order to increase effectiveness which, in the final analysis, is the most important consideration. This, in the truest sense, calls for application of the political economy of Socialism.

Thus, as the above facts show, the most rational use of the investment funds available to the national economy emerges more and more clearly as the main link in the chain in the struggle to increase economic effectiveness. Every mark invested must lead to an above-average increase in labour productivity and an increase in the national income. The struggle for high labour productivity must be conducted in every combine and enterprise.

For the dialectical aspects of the matter is that the larger part of investment funds comes from the national income and they must be so used that they make it possible to earn the biggest possible increase in the national income in the shortest possible time. But an analysis of the carrying out of the 1970 plan shows that this link between the increase in the national income and the effectiveness of accumulation funds is not sufficiently understood. But these are decisive questions in the further rapid tempo of growth of our national economy. The fact is that our national income is today being produced at too high a cost, that is, too much investment

funds are being used to produce 100 marks increase in the national income. This is one of the largest sources for an increase in the rate of growth in our national economy.

For this reason the national economic plan provides for a sharp drop in production costs and, in connection with this, a big increase in gross profits resulting from funds invested. While it was possible in a number of enterprises and combines, especially in the field of processing machine construction, to over-fulfil the planned increase in gross gains as a result of putting new capacities into operation, there are arrears in the economy as a whole. This applies especially to the chemical industry, electrical engineering and electronics, and light industry, where the required amount of economic gains planned to result from investment projects was not earned.

Automation in accordance with the high standards of the organization of science is not an end in itself but should be regarded as an extremely important means of raising the level of effectiveness of the national economy.

At the seminar of the Central Committee of the SED and the Council of Ministers with works managers, party secretaries and chairmen of works trade union committees on carrying out complex Socialist automation we discussed with the enterprises, combines, VVBs and ministries concerned the ideology, which still exists to some extent, that automation must be increasingly expensive. Proofs were given that one of the causes for this is that attempts are made to add automation projects on to old technological procedures.

The only correct orientation in automation must be the consideration of whether peak achievements in effectiveness will also result in carrying out state plan tasks in which pioneering and peak results in products and technologies are to be achieved.

There is no doubt that we can justly state that the position already reached in working out and carrying through the economic system of Socialism has already, in many enterprises and combines, led to a totally different attitude towards planning the expenditure of investments and towards the most effective use of basic funds, especially in connection with the principle of the individual earning of funds. Many enterprises have really begun to reckon seriously

with every mark and to think out exactly whether, for what purpose and with what result they should use their investment funds.

But we must add the following:

All previous standards have been broken away from in the course of carrying out the structural policy, concentrating forces on pioneering and peak results, organizing Socialist large-scale research, and in the tasks set for complex automation projects. Enterprises and combines which previously had to deal with investment projects valued at one or two million marks must now take charge of projects which are sometimes worth hundreds of millions of marks. All this gives rise to entirely new problems in the calculation, planning and management of these processes.

Especially where economic resources are very much concentrated on automation and for other purposes, in the interests of the national economy, the responsibility of managers to the state increases tremendously. At the same time, constant central assistance is necessary in these decisive fields.

As a result of a decision of the Secretariat of the Central Committee, working groups of the Central Committee and the Council of Ministers have been sent to 19 selected combines. Their job is to work out effective systems of planning and management on the basis of the application of the Marxist-Leninist science of organization and to help the managers of these enterprises and combines to solve new problems.

Experience gained in fulfilling the 1970 plan again shows that there is a direct connection between the quality of planning and management in preparing for investments and their effectiveness.

In order to get the best results from investments, it is now necessary to arrive at general conclusions for planning, preparing and carrying them through, and special attention should be paid to projecting. The point of departure is in all cases full regard for the law of the economy of time. The Political Bureau has already called up the responsible comrades in the Council of Ministers to draw up a draft resolution on new regulations for the entire system of reproduction of basic funds, including the tasks and working methods of those in charge of assignments.

This calls especially for the following:

1. The entire process of investment must be linked up from the

point of view of content with the process of intensive extended reproduction as a whole. The key problem is thorough preparation of investments, making use of the Socialist organization of science in order to make comprehensive economic use of science as a productive force. This preparatory work must already begin in connection with laying the scientific basis so that new products and technologies can be introduced in good time.

In the plan itself the development of new pioneering and peak achievements, the introduction of these into production and the necessary investments must be outlined as an integrated complex process. Project-bound planning is the decisive instrument in safeguarding results.

2. The scientific potential and designing capacities are to be concentrated primarily on the preparatory phases, decisive for the effectiveness of investment projects, for studies, examination of variants, solutions to problems and town planning concepts. It is also important here to arrive at a higher standard in basic decisions.

3. Decisive conditions for the economically most effective use of material, modern technologies and procedures and a rapid tempo in completing investment projects are already created during designing.

Starting out from the highest scientific and technical standard to be expected at the time when the project will be completed, from the use of automation systems and strict adherence to state norms, the important thing is to wage an uncompromising struggle against a rise in the cost of investment projects.

4. System solutions for parts of buildings, complex plant and technical equipment should be offered increasingly in the form of catalogues and at fixed prices by the building combines, combines producing pre-fabricated parts and the enterprises and combines of the investment goods industry.

5. Considerably better concentration of time and space must be achieved for an effective carrying out of investment projects, the aim being to get a steady, full employment of building and construction capacities. More favourable conditions must be set up for the qualified management of building sites, three-shift use of

machinery decisive for productivity and better social care of building workers.

6. The new step in carrying out investment projects must be recognized as a decisive phase in industrial production of complete, well-functioning production centres and to adjust to this idea. For this purpose the most up-to-date methods of planning and organization must be used. At the same time it is necessary to deal with problems of qualification and advanced training in the field of management of big building complexes.

For the Further All-round Strengthening of the GDR

The struggle to fulfil the 1970 national economic plan is decisive for the further all-round consolidation of our German Democratic Republic. At the same time it is going on as a process of development and testing of Socialist people who are daily doing great things out of love and loyalty for their Socialist state.

This struggle is being conducted in hard class conflict, especially with West German imperialism. Independent of developments in West Germany, the working people in the GDR are consolidating the positions of Socialism and of peace in Europe through their consistent struggle for plan fulfilment.

In this way they are doing their class duty towards the international working class and, together with the Soviet Union and the other Socialist countries, contributing to a further change in the relation of forces between Socialism and imperialism to the advantage of Socialism.

They are also strengthening our republic as the firm support in the struggle of the West German working class to drive back the militarist and neo-fascist forces in the Federal Republic and to safeguard peace and security.

They are making an active contribution to the achievement of peaceful coexistence between the GDR and the FRG and to the full recognition of the GDR under international law. Imbued with a high degree of Socialist consciousness, the working class, the cooperative farmers and the intelligentsia of the GDR have undertaken new and important tasks. With the motto:—"Produce more

rationally, for yourself, your enterprise and for our Socialist peace state"—they are doing splendid work in honour of our republic, to achieve a further improvement in their working and living conditions.

Above all, in the struggle to fulfil the national economic plan in all its parts, to achieve a maximum increase in the productivity and effectiveness of social labour, the working people of our republic are implementing their political creed:

Everything links us to the GDR, our Socialist Fatherland, with the mighty Soviet Union and the other Socialist countries. Nothing links us with the imperialist system in West Germany or its main ally, the aggressive US imperialism.

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